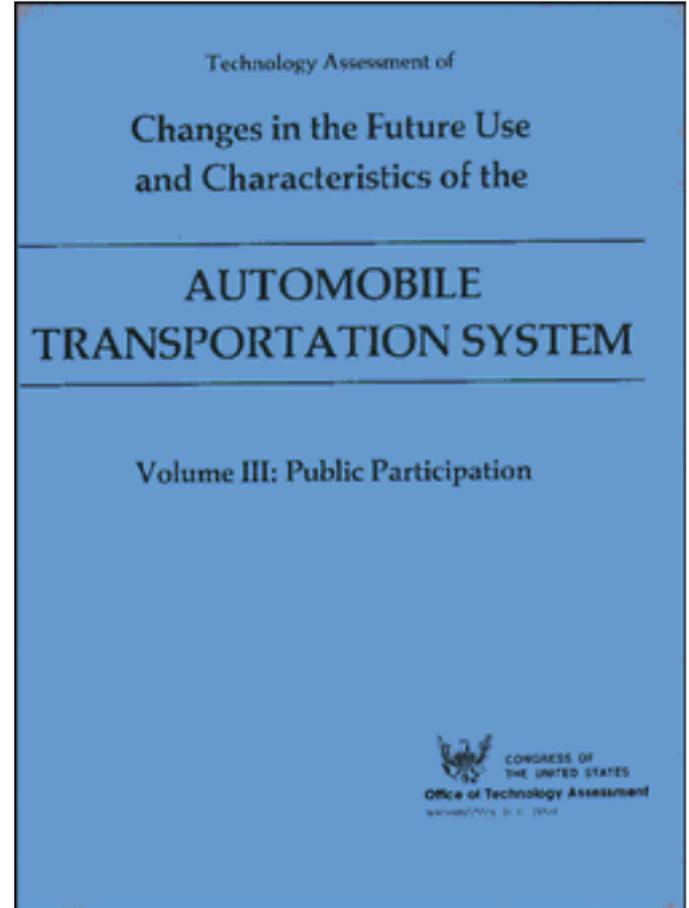


*Technology Assessment of Changes in the
Future Use and Characteristics of the
Automobile Transportation
System—Volume III: Public Participation*

October 1979



Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 79-600030

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402 Stock No. 052-003 -00710-0

Foreword

An assessment of the future use and characteristics of the automobile transportation system was undertaken (1976-78) by OTA at the request of Senator Warren G. Magnuson, then Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. The study addressed issues and policy options pertaining to mobility, energy, environment, safety, and cost and capital. The time frame was both near-term (through 1985) and long-term (into the next century).

The specific objectives of the study were:

- to describe the factors that influence the characteristics of the automobile system, its use, and services supporting its use;
- to identify and characterize potential changes in automobile use and characteristics;
- to assess the potential near-term and far-term effects of various alternative Federal Government policies relating to automobile use and characteristics; and
- to present the findings in a form useful to Congress and the public.

The results of the technical analysis, carried out by the OTA Transportation Program with the help of an advisory panel, consultants, and contractors, were published in February 1979 in a two-volume report. The first volume is a summary of the findings. The second contains a detailed discussion of issues, policy options, and estimated effects. Volume II also contains a description of expected technological developments through 1985 and by the end of the century.

This report—volume III—presents the findings of a nationwide public participation effort conducted in 1978 in conjunction with the assessment. The intent of the public participation program was twofold:

- to solicit commentary on the issues, alternatives for personal transportation, and Federal Government policy options; and
- to facilitate the public's participation in OTA's technology assessment process.

Essentially, this report is a synopsis of what people said. It is illustrative of attitudes and viewpoints of a wide variety of Americans. The discussion is deliberately informal, and verbatim quotes are used frequently so as to capture both the substance and the tone of the respondents' remarks as accurately as possible.

Chapter 1 highlights the major viewpoints expressed on issues and options in future personal transportation. Chapter 2 contains background information on the "car culture," the origin of automobile assessment, and the role of public participation in the technology assessment process.

The core of the report—chapters 3 through 7—is a compilation of comments about mobility, costs, energy, environment, and safety from people throughout the country. The order in which they are presented is indicative of the degree of concern expressed by the respondents, i.e., comments on mobility appear first since this issue appeared to be the primary concern of most of the participants.

The last part of the report—chapter 8 and appendixes—describes the rationale, methodology, and materials used in the public participation program for the automobile assessment.



JOHN H. GIBBONS
Director

OTA Automobile Assessment Advisory Panel

R. Eugene Goodson, *Chairman*
Institute for Interdisciplinary Engineering Studies
Purdue University

William G. Agnew
Technical Director
General Motors Research Laboratories

Leo Blatz
Executive Officer
ESSO Inter-America, Inc.

John J. Byrne
Chairman of the Board
GEICO and Affiliates

B. J. Campbell†
Highway Safety Research Center
University of North Carolina

Anne P. Carter†
Department of Economics
Brandeis University

Frank W. Davis, Jr.
Transportation Center
University of Tennessee

Clarence Ditlow, III†
Center for Auto Safety

Lamont Eltinge
Director of Research
Eaton Corporation Research Center

Norman Emerson*
Executive Assistant to the Mayor
City of Los Angeles

William Haddon, Jr. †
President
Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

Kent Joscelyn
Highway Safety Research Institute
University of Michigan

Joshua Menkes
National Science Foundation

Wilfred Owen
The Brookings Institution

Archie H. Richardson
President
Auto Owners Action Council

Angela Rooney
Upper Northeast Coordinating Council

Richard H. Shackson**
Director of the Office of Environmental Research
Ford Motor Company

S.Fred Singer
Professor of Environmental Sciences
University of Virginia

Lawrence J. White***
Graduate School of Business Administration
New York University

Howard Young
United Auto Workers

*Now Regional Representative of the Secretary, Region IX, U.S. Department of Transportation.

**Now Assistant Director for Transportation, Energy Productivity Center, Carnegie-Mellon Institute of Research.

***Now Council of Economic Advisors.

†Resigned from the panel before the assessment was completed.

The OTA Automobile Assessment Advisory Panel provided valuable advice, critique, and assistance to the OTA staff throughout this assessment. Their participation, however, does not necessarily constitute approval or endorsement of this report. OTA assumes sole responsibility for the report and the accuracy of the content.

OTA Transportation Program

Eric H. Willis, *Assistant Director*
Science, Information, and Transportation Division

Robert L. Maxwell, *Transportation Program Manager*

M. Junior Bridge	Debi Chertok	D. Linda Garcia
Larry L. Jenney	H. James Leach	Kathleen G. Lolich
Linda McCray	Joel A. Miller	Paula Walden

Contractor

Nancy Wrigley

Technical Support

Marese A. Miles

Public Participation Working Group

Olivia Cammack	Mia Choumenkovitch	Del Dobbins
Mark Horowitz	William B. Lindsay	Lena Lupica
Larry Newlin	Alyce Pannell	Observer: Alvin Frost

Publishing Office

John C Holmes, *Publishing Officer*

Kathie S. Boss Joanne Heming