



# **III. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

The transportation system in the CMMPO region is a collection of roads, bridges, transit services, freight facilities, bicycle routes, pedestrian facilities and intermodal connectors that need to work as an integrated system within and throughout the 40 communities and beyond. The transportation system is maintained and operated by a number of different agencies, including but not limited to the Massachusetts Highway Department, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, the Massachusetts Port Authority, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and local entities.

In 2007, the Massachusetts Transportation Finance Commission issued a report stating that, over the next twenty years, the cost just to maintain the transportation system exceeds anticipated funding by \$19 billion. Of the anticipated funding gap, nearly \$10 billion was attributed to the maintenance of the Commonwealth's roads and bridges.

The following sections describe each of the modes and inventory existing conditions. Roads, bridges, sidewalks, trails, railroad tracks, ports, and airstrips are all transportation assets (any structure affixed to the ground that assists in the movement of people and goods). An effective asset management program assists decision makers in optimizing strategies for evaluation, providing, and maintaining assets in a serviceable condition. Asset management begins with an inventory of current system infrastructure and its operating condition.