

SUMMARY OF MTS PROGRAM ISSUES AND GOALS

Introduction to Issues

The Department of Transportation's (DOT) strategic goals were used as a guide for organizing the comments from the seven Regional Listening Sessions. The strategic goals of DOT are:

- ◆ to promote the public health and safety by working toward the elimination of transportation-related deaths, injuries, and property damage;
- ◆ to shape America's future by ensuring a transportation system that is accessible, integrated, efficient, and offers flexibility of choices;
- ◆ to advance America's economic growth and competitiveness domestically and internationally through efficient and flexible transportation;
- ◆ to protect and enhance communities and the natural environment affected by transportation; and,
- ◆ to advance the nation's vital security interests by ensuring that the transportation system is secure and available for defense mobility and that our borders are safe from illegal intrusions.

It was important that the issues represented both the national concerns for transportation as a whole as well as those concerns which were specific to the Marine Transportation System. The issues discussed at the National Conference were: Safety, Competitiveness, Infrastructure, Environment and Security, and the recurring issues of the need for a national MTS vision and framework for coordination at the local and national levels. The outcome of the discussions follows.