

SUMMARY

The existing transportation system and the plans for future development in Trinidad for the next twenty years have been investigated.

The assumptions first made in the 1967 National Transportation Plan are no longer feasible and they have been re-examined in subsequent studies to ensure that the divergence from reality is minimised.

The most significant of these studies is the East-West Corridor as it included the Capital Region and thirty percent of the population.

Three transport schemes to satisfy the 1995 traffic capacity requirements were analysed. Two of the schemes were conventional road systems and the third was transit oriented and referred to as 'BT'. The BT (Bus Transit) proposal was adopted and is presently under construction. The sections of road immediately east of Port-of-Spain, and roughly two-thirds of a Priority Bus Route have been completed and operating satisfactorily.

The unprecedented growth of the local petroleum industry in the seventies has placed Trinidad and Tobago in a most favourable financial position and the increase in per capita income has caused the vehicle population to increase to 12 private vehicles per 100 persons or 127,000 private vehicles.

The Government has established a state enterprise, The National (Secondary Roads) Development Company Limited (SRC) with the main object of facilitating the reconstruction of secondary roads.

The current highway plans include the construction of approximately 125 km of new roads (Fig. 2), at an estimated cost of TT\$10 million per kilometer.

The population forecast to the year 2002 is 1.5 million and the proposed plans have the required traffic capacities, provided the modal split for Bus Transit of 41% is achieved in the East-West Corridor.

The city of Port-of-Spain has serious traffic congestion on the main streets, and also on the trunk roads leading into Port-of-Spain. In the author's opinion the establishment of an urban transit corridor serving Port-of-Spain, with park-and-ride facilities, is necessary

to keep as many cars as is possible out of the city.

This will help alleviate the downtown traffic congestion.