

**Purpose and Learning Objectives** To provide students with a broad overview of the U.S. transportation system, modes of transportation, careers, infrastructure, and issues of the aging systems that cannot keep pace with a growing US population. Learning objectives for this activity are:

- Understand the various modes of transportation and sample occupations that keep America's people and goods moving.
- Understand how transportation connects to the daily lives of people who live in the U.S.
- Identify key elements of the U.S. transportation system and careers in the industry.

**Estimated Time for Completion** 1.5 hours

**Resources/Supplies Required**

- Computer with internet access, video player software application, and speakers
- Paper and pens/pencils for students to write

**Instructions** Note: This activity can be conducted as a class activity or may be assigned to students to complete, independently. Ensure computer, video player software, and speakers are properly operating before starting this activity.

- Go to the [Transportation Youth Academy](#) website. Ask students to click on the [Transportation Exploration Activity](#) link.
- Show to the class (or have students watch independently) the Transportation Systems in the USA video. Note: the video requires a video player software application to run. If you do not have a video player software application on the computer you are using, you will be asked to download it. Also note the video contains commercials.
- Download the Activity Guide – The US Transportation System and distribute to students. If students are working independently ask them to download and print the guide and follow the instructions on the guide. Or if conducting the activity with the class, while showing the video ask students to:
  - Write down all the components they see and hear that make up the U.S. transportation system.
  - Write down all the transportation terms they hear.
  - Write down all the jobs/careers they see and hear that make up the U.S. transportation system.
  - Write down all the issues that currently exist in the U.S. transportation system that are mentioned in the video.

**Student Activities** After watching the video:

- Ask students to provide 2-3 examples of the connections that exist between the daily lives of people who live in the U.S. and the transportation system. Here are a couple of questions to get them started...How do people move about? How do they get the goods that they use?
- Ask students in what ways has transportation changed ways of life for people living in the U.S. in recent history?
- Ask students to list how many different modes of transportation they saw in the video?
- Ask students what some key terms were used to describe how the transportation system operates?

- Ask students what are three major issues with the current transportation system – particularly as population grows in the U.S.?
- Ask students what some of the careers were that they saw (and imagine there are even if they weren't in the video) that keep the transportation system working...from planning and design, to manufacturing and construction, to operation, to repair and maintenance?

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**Student  
Answers/  
Output**

Modes of transportation and key words students should use to describe what they viewed in the video:

roads, buses, ferries, tunnels, rails, trains, stations, cars, planes, bridges, tunnels, subways, tracks, freight-cars, commuter-trains, freight-trains, signals, logistics, ships, control towers, control centers, radar, GPS, highways, data sidewalks, pilots, transportation-planners, traffic-analysts, traffic-controllers, construction-crews, bridges, pipelines, infrastructure, cargo, commuter, railway, mass-transit, green time, road manager, fishbowl, hardware, software, radio traffic reporter, humping, pin pulling, Amtrack trains