

Edward Weiner  
U. S. Department of Transportation

*The problems in public transportation and the perceived solutions are somewhat a function of one's point of view. Further, the difficulty in solving these problems is increased when the perception of problems and solutions differs among the parties involved because it becomes more difficult to agree on a course of action.*

*Those involved in different aspects of public transportation must be brought together for the purpose of explicating these points of view and identifying where they agree and disagree. Disagreement, on either the problems or the solutions, should be resolved through an open communication process in which all concerned parties participate. Courses of action can*

*then be plotted and implemented.*

*Speakers at the conference expressed 5 points of view on public transportation problems and solutions: the urban area, the taxicab industry, the transit industry, labor unions, and regulatory bodies.*

*Their papers, which follow, addressed the following specific questions:*

*What are the more severe problems in your area of public transportation at the present time?*

*What are the more severe problems in your area of public transportation that will exist in the next 10 to 20 years?*

*Can these problems be resolved through technological, political, or social expertise?*

*What should be done to alleviate these problems?*

*Who should take the initiative in resolving these problems?*

William J. Ronan  
New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority

At a time when society is trying to come to grips with the problems of urban America and the elusive question of providing mobility for people and goods, we witnessed not long ago 2 products of our society, John Young and Charles M. Duke, tooling along the rills and plateaus of the lunar landscape in their Moon Rover a quarter of a million miles away. While hundreds of millions of people throughout the world watched the spectacle live on TV, the astronauts engaged in the most awe-inspiring "dig" in man's history. Despite the barren and alien conditions of space, the exploration of the moon's secrets proceeded with nonchalance.

The drama is almost gone as routine nudges adventure aside. Conquering the moon technologically appears too easy. The conditions confronting us there are alien—but they are not hostile and, increasingly, they are predictable. Imagine the resurgence of public interest in moon exploration if, as we watched the astronauts at work, some moon ur-chins stole into the picture, stripped the Rover of its hubcaps and vital parts, and with magic markers and spray cans composed pointless but indelible lunar graffiti.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS IN URBAN AREAS