ABOUT THIS REPORT

Transportation plays a vital role in the American economy: it makes economic activity possible, and serves as a major economic activity itself. *Transportation Economic Trends 2017* highlights important trends in transportation and the economy, and explains related economic concepts and data sources for a general audience.

**Organization**

The report has eight chapters:

- Chapter 1 introduces the Transportation Services Index, a monthly summary of freight and passenger movement.
- Chapter 2 explains what transportation contributes to the American economy.
- Chapter 3 examines the costs that households and businesses pay for transportation.
- Chapter 4 analyzes transportation-related employment.
- Chapter 5 explains and examines trends in transportation productivity.
- Chapter 6 analyzes household spending on transportation goods and services.
- Chapter 7 examines government transportation spending and revenue.
- Chapter 8 discusses transportation assets and infrastructure.

Each chapter uses the latest data available as of June 15, 2017 unless otherwise noted.

**Improvements to the 2017 Edition**

*Transportation Economic Trends 2017* builds on the 2016 edition with updated data and new content, including:

- An expanded discussion of transportation productivity measures and how the transportation sector has contributed to economic growth in the United States (chapter 5);
- National data measuring the value of and investment in transportation assets (chapter 8);
- Additional explanations of economic concepts and data sources;
- A glossary of economic and transportation terms.