

Bureau of Transportation Statistics Executive Summary

Fiscal Year 2000 Accomplishments

- BTS began developing the Intermodal Transportation Database (ITDB), bringing together many departmental databases. The initial preview was shown on April 11, 2000, at the BTS Safety in Numbers conference in Washington, DC. A number of other demonstrations have been conducted both inside the department and at conferences around the country.
- BTS began the redesign of its information technology program. In June, the Office of Information Technology was organized, to centralize the various functions of information technology in a single organizational unit. In addition, plans were developed to redesign the IT architecture, partly due to software licensing costs and options, and partly due to the need to ensure sufficient resources in both development and production environments to support the growing portfolio of IT applications. Most of the required hardware and software acquisitions have been completed to effect the change, which will occur in the next fiscal year.
- BTS has continued to redesign its web site and make it more user friendly, while at the same time, ensuring compliance with all governmental, departmental, and agency requirements, especially Section 508.

Fiscal Year 2001 Goals

- The Intermodal Transportation Database will be rolled out in October, 2000. Release 1.0 of the ITDB will be announced and made available to the public as a browser-based system that includes a number of the department's major data systems. During FY 2001, additional databases will be loaded into the ITDB and made available to the public.
- The redesign of the IT infrastructure will be completed, establishing parallel development and production environments which will serve to mirror one another. This will provide additional fail-safe mechanisms to ensure speedy recovery in case of server failure.
- The Office of Airline Information's data system will be converted from the mainframe environment upon which it currently resides, to a client/server environment maintained within BTS. This should significantly decrease the cost of maintaining the system, while providing equivalent functionality to its many users.
- The redesigned BTS web site will be made public, with additional components representing the work products of many of the BTS program activities – transportation studies, statistical programs and services, ITDB, communications and outreach. The site will be significantly easier to navigate, more user friendly, and provide greater information access to the public and other users.