

# The Challenge



## Executive Summary:

**PROBLEM:** The nation's 21st century transportation demand cannot be satisfied by the planned investments in hub-and-spoke and highway systems\*.

**SOLUTION:** The Small Aircraft Transportation System (SATS) concept can satisfy a large portion of the demand, relieving the pressure on existing ground and air systems.

**SATS Planning Conference:** Establish the research priorities and partnership requirements to develop and deploy SATS infrastructure and vehicle technologies.

\* “. . .analysis of 15 years of data in 70 metro areas adds to the growing body of evidence that. . .highway construction is an ineffective means of managing congestion. In fact, numerous studies indicate that highway construction often generates more traffic, raising congestion levels. Given the enormous cost of highway construction, our transportation officials need to investigate a broader menu of congestion relief measures that include other transportation modes, new technology, pricing, land use, and other strategies. (Surface Transportation Policy Project: An Analysis of the Relationship Between Highway Expansion and Congestion in Metropolitan Areas -- Lessons from the 15-Year Texas Transportation Institute Study, November, 1998.)”

Similar conclusions apply to the hub and spoke system. Both hub-spoke and highway systems' abilities to accommodate more demand are constrained by their maturity phase constraints in their respective innovation life cycles.