

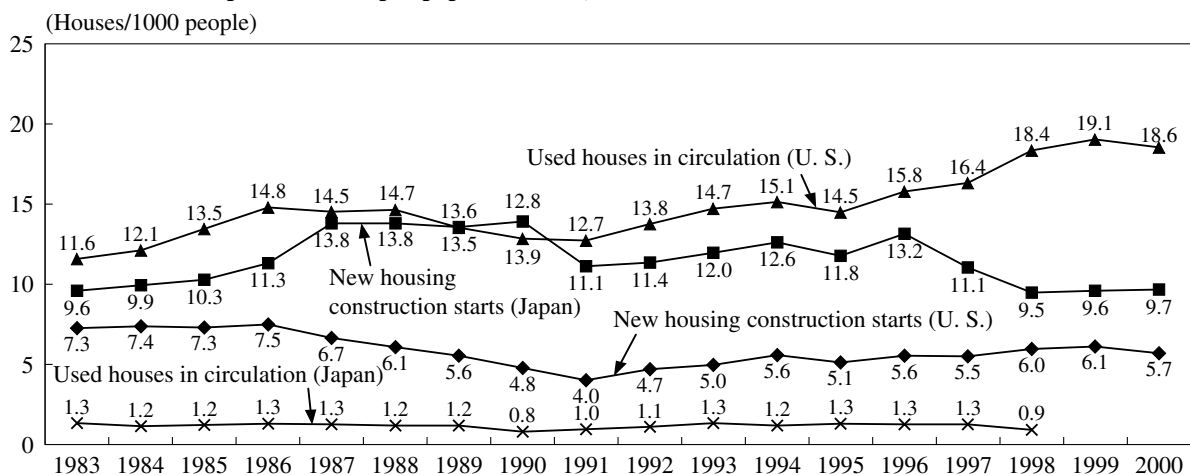
Chapter 4. Supporting Joyful Life

[Achieving a comfortable living]

Development and effective use of good quality residence and housing lots

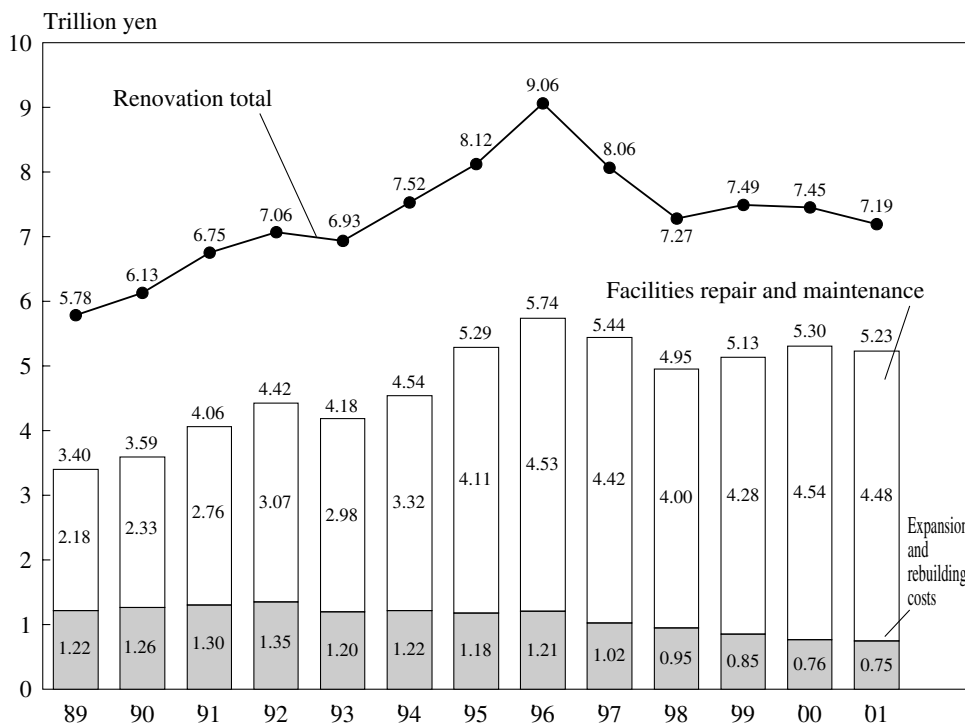
In order to make effective use of existing housing stock, we are promoting quality home ownership through tax and financial measures in addition to dealing with such issues as the used housing market, the rental housing market, activation of the renovation market and proper management and smooth rebuilding of condominiums, conversion of former office space into housing, etc.

94. (Comparison of the number of new housing construction starts and the distribution quantity of used houses in market between Japan and USA per population of 1,000 in both countries)



Sources: U.S.: Construction Review, Statistical Abstract of United States
 Japan: MPHPT "Housing and Land Survey", MLIT "Statistics of New Dwellings Started"

95. (Changes of the size of housing renovation market)



Note: Bar graph represents renovation in the narrow sense. Line graph represents construction costs associated with expansion and rebuilding within housing start statistics, as well as expenditures for household durable goods associated with renovation, purchase of interior goods, etc.
 Sources: Compiled from MLIT "Building Construction Started", MPHPT "Survey of Household Economy", National Population, Number of Households and Population Statistics Chart", Center for Housing Renovation and Dispute Settlement Support "Housing Renovation, Report 2002 on Consultations Regarding Housing Renovation and Housing"

Promotion of building administration

Building administration, including building inspection, plays a major role in insuring the quality of housing and buildings, dealing with such problems as sick house syndrome and fire protection in multi-use small buildings.

Promoting supply of High quality Housing lots

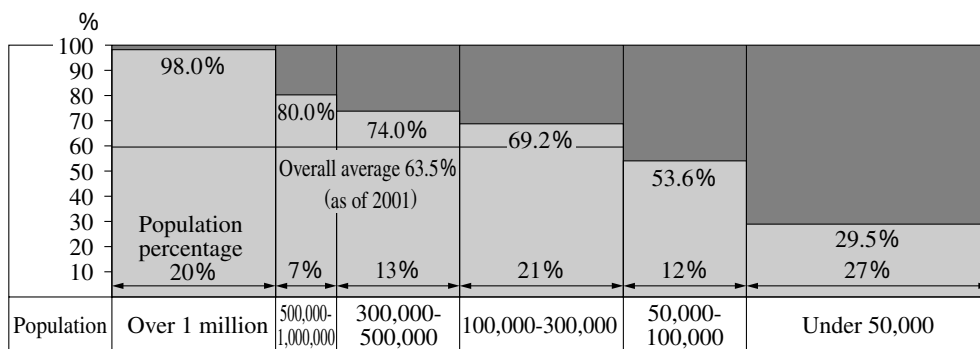
In addition to assaying changes in housing lots policy to focus on quality and make effective use of stock, we are also making use of term-limited lot-rental rights.

[Achieving a comfortable lifestyle]

Promotion of sewerage development

A major differential in sewerage development exists among regions. Therefore, as we look for efficient ways to expand them, such as strengthening ties among different types of sewerage development, we are promoting work in smaller cities and towns. Also, we are dealing with such new issues as urban flooding, improvement of combined sewer systems, high-level treatment in closed water areas and the lake.

96. (Nationwide percentage of sewer served population (by population))



Sources: MLIT

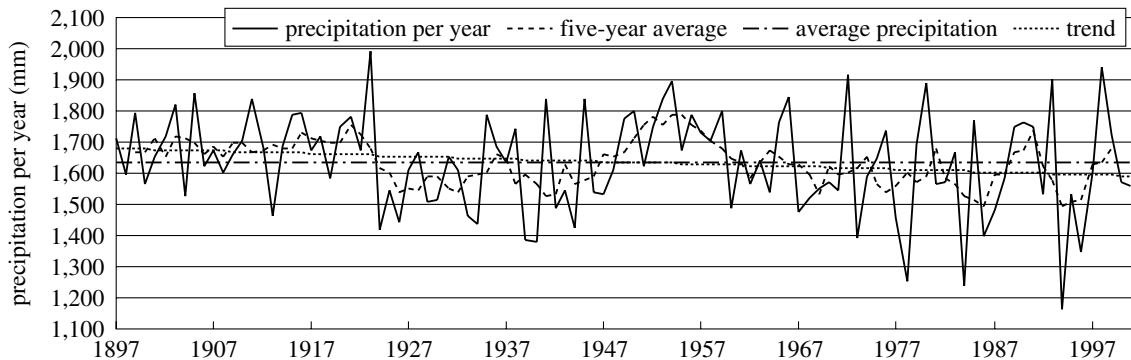
Development of City Parks

City parks are core facilities for creating a rich living environment and dealing with the diverse needs of the people for recreation. We are undertaking such development of city parks for such diverse functions as improving the safety of cities, forming communities for an aging society, building and protecting a superior environment, and creating lively exchange spots.

Stable supply of water resources

Water shortage has occurred frequently due to a slight decreasing trend of precipitation in our country where stable water supplies are difficult to maintain for climatic and geographic reasons. Therefore, ensuring the stability of water utilization is being sought for from both software and hardware sides, such as building water resources development facilities, making efficient use of conventional facilities, sharing water, recollecting water, and utilizing water repeatedly, etc.

97. Yearly change of annual precipitation in Japan (1897-2001)



Note 1: Calculated by the Water Resources Department of MLIT based on information from the Japan Meteorological Agency. Arithmetic average for 46 locations throughout the nation.
 2: Trend was calculated as a regression line.

[Improving convenience in daily life]

We aim to improve the convenience and comfort of daily life by promoting overall renovation of RR station functions, taking measures to harmonize transfers, encouraging off-peak commuting, etc.

[Encouraging the IT Revolution]

Using IT in the transportation field

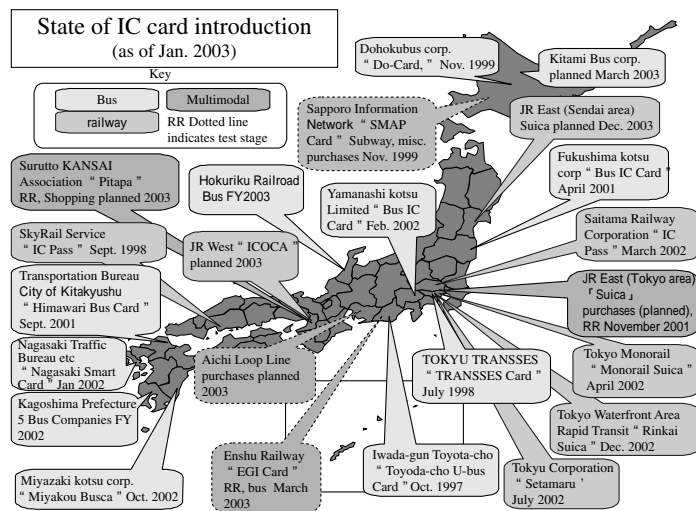
With the aim of more convenient service in the field of transportation, we are taking the following measures:

- 1 . Promoting introduction of the IC card system;
- 2 . Encouraging the " e - Airport Concept ; "
- 3 . Offering digital public transportation information;
- 4 . R&D for a model system to aid those with limited mobility; and
- 5 . Undertaking to construct an on - demand transit system in transportation deprived areas.

98. (Suica)



99. (State of IC card introduction (as of Jan. 2003))



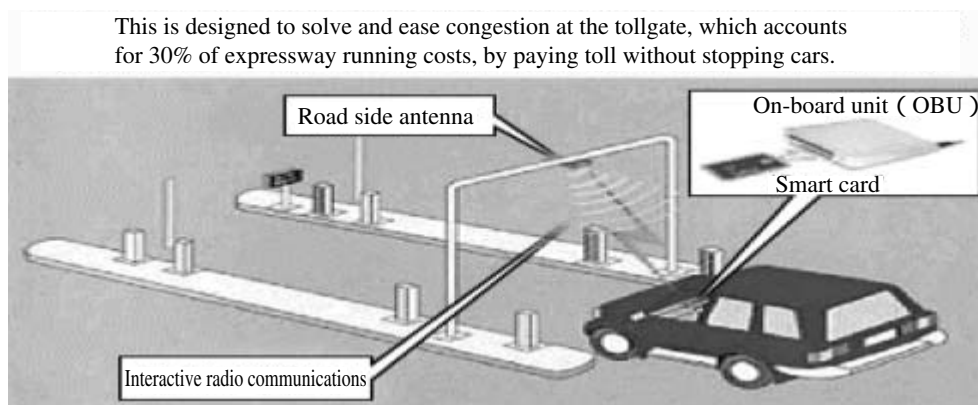
Encouraging ITS (high - level road information system)

In order to build an integrated highway and vehicular system using IT technology, we are undertaking to:

1. Promote the spread of ETC (electronic toll collection);
2. Improve road traffic conditions information;
3. Make use of ITS in highway transport operation; and
4. Promote ITS to aid pedestrians.

In addition, we are developing and diffusing travel support systems and advanced safe automobiles, as well as promoting technology to develop electronic license plates.

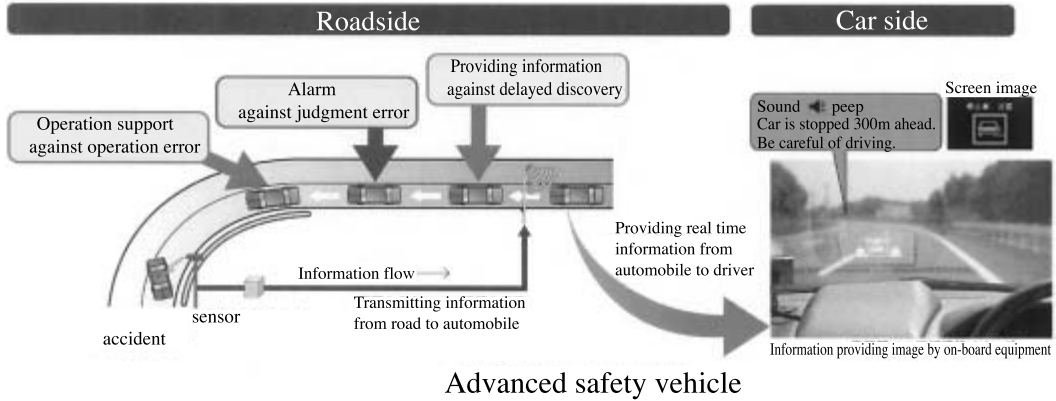
100. (ETC (Electronic Toll Collection System))



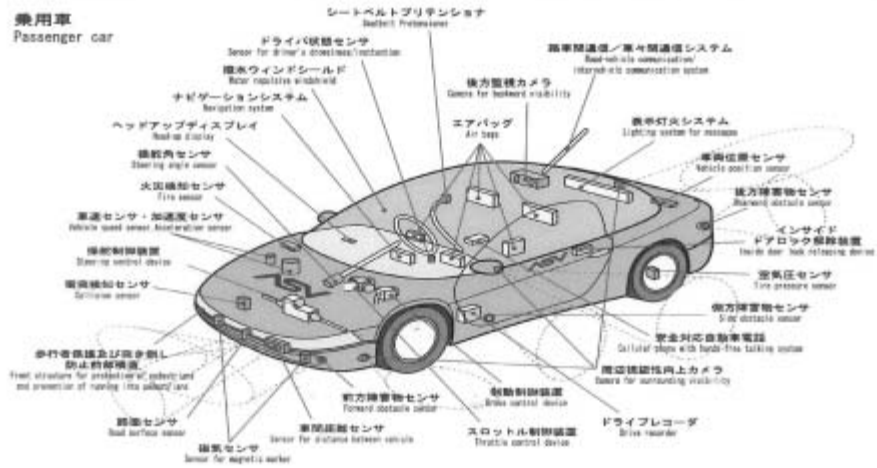
Note: ETC Electronic Toll Collection System

101. (Image of Driving Support System (Collision Prevention System))

< Image of Driving support system (System image for preventing collision accident)>



Advanced safety vehicle



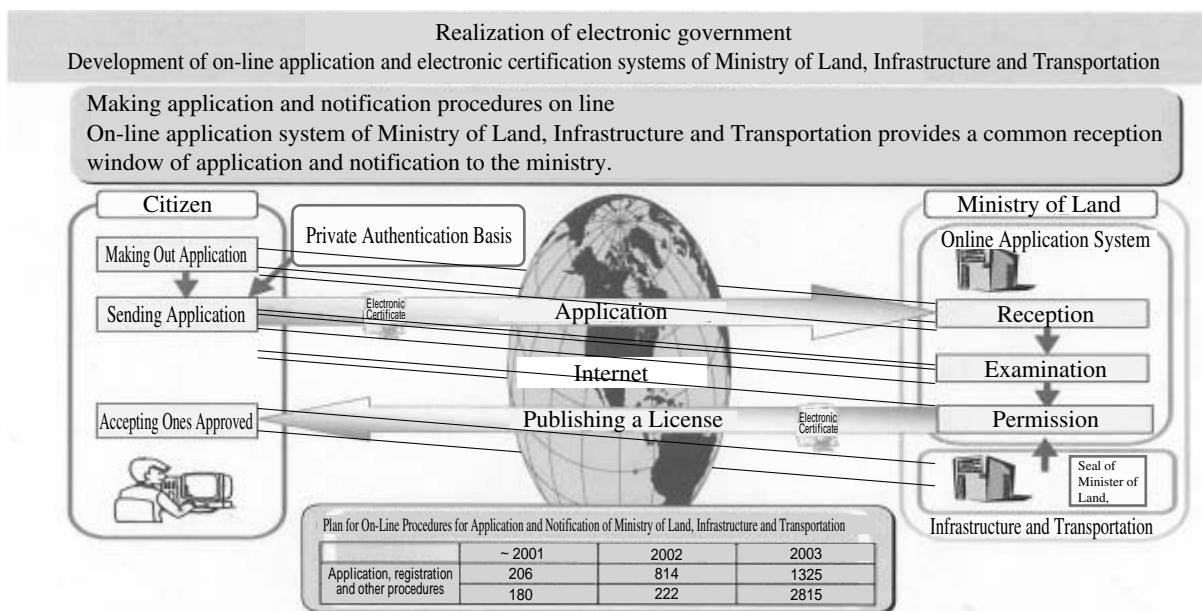
Realizing the electronic national land

In conjunction with the development and diffusion of GIS (geographic information system), we are preparing clearinghouses for space databases and geographical information and also developing a geodetic data point system.

Realizing Electronic Government

We are working for the early establishment of electronic government, to provide such nonstop services as online administrative procedures, electronic bidding and automobile registration.

102. Realization of electronic government



developing and opening of fiber optic reception spaces

We are promoting the developing fiber optics in public facilities and fiber optic reception spaces, and their opening to the private sector.

[Promotion of recreational activities]

Development of recreational space

We are undertaking to develop national parks to meet broad recreational demands, and high quality walking and waterside spaces for health improvement and creating attractive districts.

103. (Akashi Straits National Park)



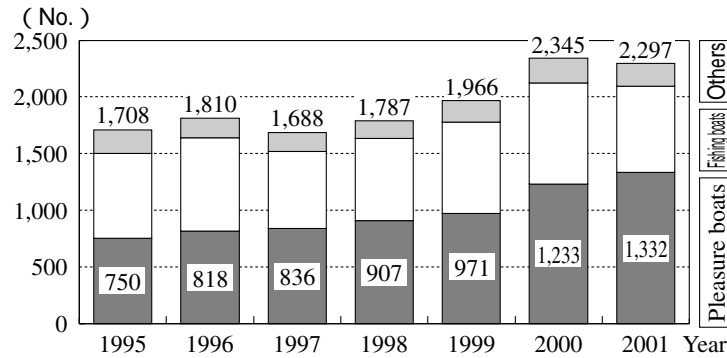
Improving the environment for pleasure boating

In conjunction with taking new integrated measures to promote and regulate small craft use, we are working to improve the use environment for pleasure boats, building marinas and dealing with abandoned and sunken vessels.

104. (Okumatsushima – matsushima Park Line (Miyagi Pref.))

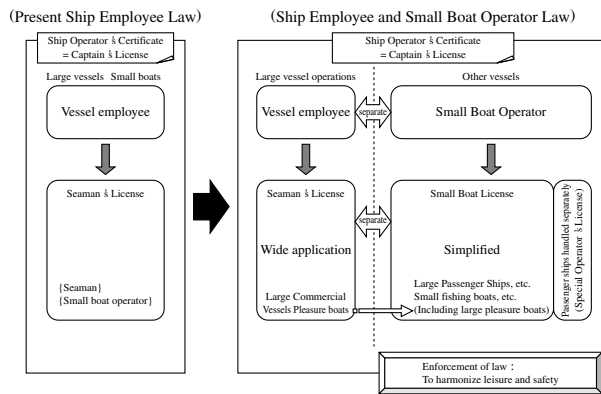


105. (No. of small boat accidents and shipwrecks)

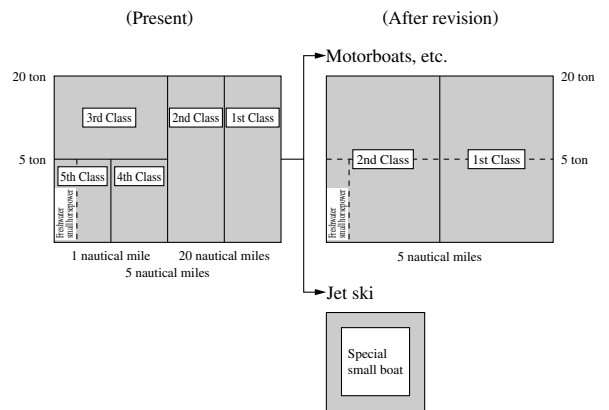


Source: MLIT

106. (Certification Reform)



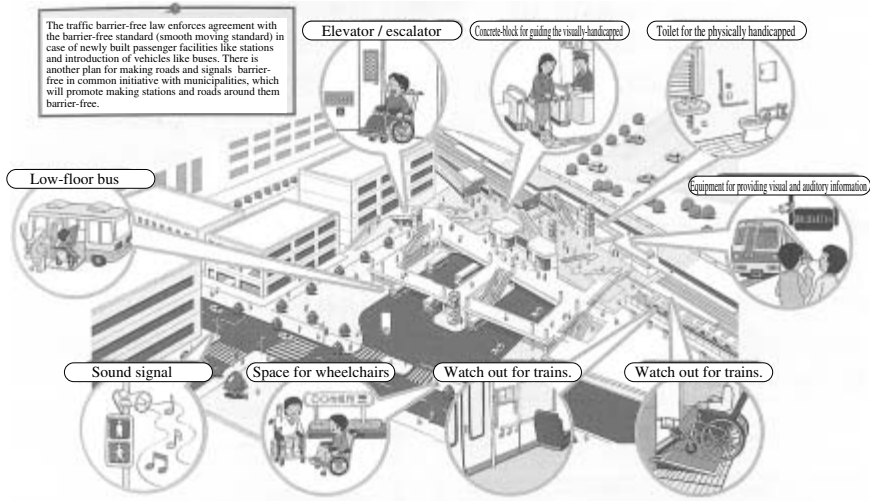
107. (Reclassification of Certification)



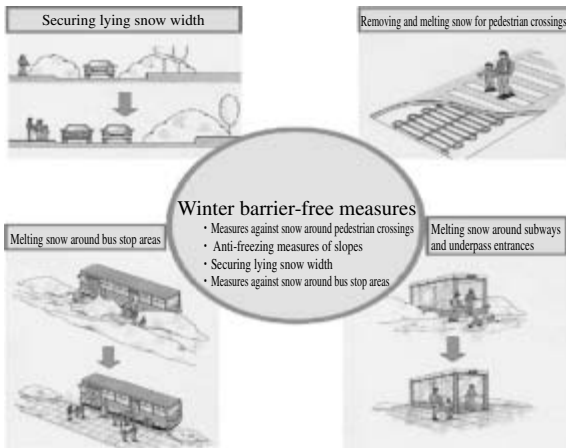
[Correspondence aging society with fewer children]

In conjunction with measures to deal with the rapid progression toward an aging society with fewer children, to make barrier free transit systems and city spaces, housing and buildings and a winterized barrier free life in snow areas, for everyone to participate in society by making a safe and secure life for all, including seniors and disabled persons, we are improving household housing for child rearing and security for seniors.

108. (Effect of Transportation Accessibility improvement Law)



109. (Barrier free in winter)



110. (Gradually sloping ramps)



111. (Approved buildings on basis of “ Heartful Building Law ”)

FY	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Approved buildings (fiscal year)	11	120	229	320	382	366	332	232
Approved buildings (cumulative)	11	131	360	680	1,062	1,428	1,760	1,992

Source: MLIT