An interstate highway is any highway built under the auspices of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 and funded by the federal government. The idea for interstate highways came from Dwight D. Eisenhower after he saw the benefits of the Autobahn during wartime Germany. There are now over 42,000 miles of interstate highways in the United States. Eisenhower’s idea. The plan for the Interstate Highway system was to complete all 42,000 miles within 16 years (by 1972.) Actually, it took 27 years to complete the system. The last link, Interstate 105 in Los Angeles, was not completed until 1993. Highways running north-south are odd numbered while highways running east-west are even numbered. The lowest numbers are in the west and in the south. The Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, commonly known as the Interstate Highway System, is a network of controlled-access highways that forms part of the National Highway System in the United States. The system is named for President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who championed its formation. Construction
was authorized by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, and the original portion was completed 35 years later, although some urban routes were cancelled and never built.