**CHAPTER 2**

**HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION IN NIGERIA**

According to Standford Research Institute (1969) the history of transportation in Nigeria can be dated before 1903 when bush paths were developed into vehicle able routes. Road Transport did not develop during the stage of animal-draw cart but came in later. According to the institute, road did not evolve until the advent of motor vehicles in the 1920’s. According to the Anyanwu (1997) in 1904 Lord Luggard attempted the construction of a road Zungeru and Zaria both in the Northrn part of the Country. The road was later extended from to Sokoto, Katsina and Maiduguri. However the road linking Ibadan and Oyo constructed in 1906 was recorded to be the first motor-able road ever constructed in Nigeria. At the end of the Second World War (1945), marked the period when Nigeria was served with adequate network of all season roads for lorry and passenger car traffic. The roads were designed for two purpose. First Urban centers are linked up with the government railways provided which helps extend commercial hinterland.

The second was to reduce the strains thrown on the provinces at the inland in the porter’s provision for the British Colonial Officers. Finance and labor constraints were one of the factors that slowed down the growth of road network at the initials. According to Onokomaya (1978) about 51,000km roadway in 1945 and 74,000km in 1960 were constructed and maintained by the government. The major factor that influenced road network development in Nigeria were the need to open up the economic and settlement frontiers of the country, which licensed the introduction of feeder road services to the Nigeria Railways to link the major railways stations along the Lagos-Kano line with the neighboring settlements, thereby increasing the supply of products such as Cocoa Palm produce, groundnuts, rubber that were exported by railways and helping the rural areas realize their skilled productive potentials.

According to Anyanwu (1997) the Nigeria landscape