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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE, AT THE DEDICATION OF THE DAN RYAN RAPID TRANSIT EXTENSION -- 95TH STREET STATION, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1969, 10:30 A.M.

This is a great day for the people of Chicago. Everybody talks a lot about urban crisis and challenge, but the leadership of this city has mobilized a response that is equal to it.

The Dan Ryan line will carry about 95,000 passengers per day. One-third of them will come from older and less adequate transit lines. About 50,000 users will pour in from the bus feeder lines that have been spotted strategically along the route. And most important of all, this line will bring in 16,000 new riders who would never have dreamed of taking a train before. They would have driven downtown and jammed the streets of the Loop.

Chicago has shown that it believes in the future and can read the handwriting on the wall. That handwriting is in bold block letters. It says that massive and uncontrolled and unrelieved automotive traffic in our cities will cause paralysis. This nation has already lost 235 transit companies in 15 years. This trend must be reversed at once to prevent the collapse of vital public transportation in this country.

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I can appreciate an effort like this because I was a builder myself. I can imagine the 131,000 cubic yards of concrete, the millions of pounds of steel, the cables and conduits required to complete this project. I know of the engineering skill necessary to bring it on-line in a matter of only three years. And as Secretary of Transportation I can tell you I see its significance in the larger scheme of things.

The Dan Ryan line is a breakthrough in transportation planning. It means a big step forward in making use of transportation corridors in which all modes will have a role. It means that transportation can make sense instead of flying off in all directions.

The people of Chicago will benefit immediately from this project. It will mean quicker access to jobs, schooling, job training and hospitals. It will help invigorate the downtown by relieving traffic congestion in the Loop. It will cut air pollution. It will help keep Chicago an enjoyable place to live in.

This project represents outstanding cooperation among all levels of government. It is imaginative. It is a tribute to the leadership of a city on the move toward tomorrow. And I am pleased to commend all those who participated.

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