



DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION

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NEWS

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EXCERPTS OF REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE, BEFORE THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF THE DALLAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE TRINITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, DALLAS, TEXAS, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1969, 6:30 P.M.

I'm very happy to join in this ground-breaking ceremony.

This is a very happy occasion.

I congratulate all parties concerned for the way they have planned for the future -- not just the immediate future -- but the big bright future that lies just over the horizon.

This bridge is designed not just to span the Trinity River today. It is designed so that it will also provide clearance for the vessels that will some day be sailing up a future Trinity canal.

As you probably know -- the U.S. Coast Guard, which is part of the Department of Transportation -- works closely with our highway people when it comes to the bridging of navigable waterways.

We are delighted that this project being started here today is a fine example of the cooperation that can be a watchword when good planning and good people get together.

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I want to report that a lot of Texans in Washington had a hand in this planning. One of them is a Dallas native -- my very good friend and the very capable head of the Federal Highway Administration -- Frank Turner. Frank is a graduate civil engineer from Texas A&M and has been in the road-building business throughout his professional career. He is the best man we could have for the job.

The bridge we begin today is another landmark in the Texas Interstate Highway System.

This program -- statewide -- is more than two-thirds complete and open to traffic. Another twelve percent is under construction. This totals nearly 2,500 miles.

This is a fine record and it speaks well for the high degree of cooperation between the Texas Highway Department and our own Federal government highway officials. We have always worked well together.

But Texas goes big for all kinds of transportation. This is evident from the fact that among the states receiving the most funds from the Department of Transportation, Texas ranks fourth. The total DOT commitment to Texas for Fiscal 1969 was \$273 million.

I want to wish everybody connected with this project success and good luck -- the fine employees of the Ashland Oil and Refining Company who will build the bridge -- the public officials of the city of Dallas and the Texas Highway Department.

I want to also thank the Trinity Improvement Association and the Dallas Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring this ceremony.

I am sure your new bridge will prove a valuable asset to the community. I know it will -- as a component of the outer loop -- help relieve congestion for the people of Dallas and make their traveling easier.

I know it will contribute to their safety. I know finally, that this new bridge will in itself prove to be a monument of splendor and strength.

I shall be closely watching your progress in construction from Washington. I wish you well.

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