



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE IN CONNECTION WITH THE D.C. TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

The impasse preventing progress on a balanced transportation system for the District has been a source of great concern both to the citizens of the area and to the various public officials seeking to resolve it. President Nixon himself stated on April 28, 1969 in his message to Congress his support both for a subway system and for necessary highway projects. He demonstrated his personal interest yesterday by participating with me and Deputy Mayor Fletcher and City Council Chairman Hahn in a helicopter survey of the traffic situation in the entire Washington metropolitan area.

I am pleased to announce that I have received today a letter from Mayor Washington and Chairman Hahn stating the City government's intention to proceed immediately with long-delayed highway projects including:

1. Potomac River Parkway from the Whitehurst Freeway to the Palisades Parkway.
2. South Leg from the Potomac River Parkway to 14th Street.
3. Center Leg from S.W. Freeway to New York Avenue.
4. East Leg from Barney Circle to Bladensburg Road.
5. Industrial highway parallel to New York Avenue
6. North Leg of Inner Loop (study to be made on final alignment).

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This affirmative action by the City government will complete 24-1/4 miles of freeway construction within the District at a cost of over \$500 million and will complete much of the essential planned highway system for the area. The Mayor and the Chairman have taken this action both because they believe these highway projects are essential to the transportation needs of our citizens and also in the spirit of helping to resolve the situation preventing the release of monies needed for the beginning of the area's subway system.

It is my conviction that this constructive step will help solve much of the highway aspect of the transportation situation and it is my hope that the House of Representatives will see fit to concur in the Senate action releasing the initial \$18.7 million for the subway program.

Although this initial step is most significant, I intend to continue working with all concerned parties toward a complete solution to the transportation problems of the area.

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