



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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EXCERPTS OF REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE TO THE CONFEREES ATTENDING THE URBAN CORRIDOR DEMONSTRATION CONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 23, 1971, 10:00 A.M., NASSIF BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C.

It is a pleasure to welcome all of you to this conference. I am impressed by the number of people here who will actively participate in today's presentations, and I know there are many more concerned and dedicated people back home in your cities who have had a great deal to do with this program. You all deserve high praise.

The Urban Corridor Demonstration Program is designed -- in part -- to carry out one of the primary missions of the Department of Transportation: and that is to assure the coordinated, effective administration of the transportation programs of the Federal government.

This demonstration program focuses not on one mode of transportation, but on two clearly complementary modes -- highway transportation and public transit. It combines some of the very excellent existing grant programs of the Federal Highway Administration and the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.....in a concerted effort to combat traffic congestion in our urban areas. As you know, I have assigned responsibility for this

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new program to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environment and Urban Systems. One of this Office's major jobs in the Department is to coordinate our overall internal resources to achieve ...balanced, intermodal transportation systems. The projects you will be implementing under this program will certainly not bring an immediate end to our rush-hour commuter problems. We don't think you have magic wands! But your projects will put our existing facilities to more efficient use and will open up new and innovative ideas for a more effectively balanced system.

Such projects as exclusive busways reversible traffic lanes, controlled freeway access, and park-and-ride facilities have resulted in dramatic improvements in several of our Nation's cities already. These projects can be even more effective, I feel, when they are linked together in a comprehensive corridor approach...taking into account the low-density or suburban end of the commuter's trip, the line-haul segment, and the central business district destination.

A very important aspect of the corridor program which I feel should never be overlooked is the full involvement of the various planning agencies, the state highway departments, and the transportation authorities.

All three of those jurisdictions are represented here at this meeting. And that is as it should be. If we are to combine balanced transportation with improved traffic conditions, then all these agencies must work together closely, offering complementary solutions rather than isolated efforts.

As you know, several other cities applied to participate in the corridor program and scores of cities across the nation have traffic congestion problems similar to those in your own cities. The eleven of you have been selected primarily because of your initiative -- the approach you proposed to use. Now we expect results. Solid results. My people here know that I don't get too happy about studies that end up on dusty shelves ... we want you to come up with meaningful proposals -- things we can do, rather than just things that are nice to talk about. So while I have charged you to be innovative, I also charge you with a very difficult challenge: be realistic!

I am hopeful that the individual programs in each of your cities will provide useful ideas and action guidelines which can then be transferred to many more of our urban areas around the country.

In truth then, your projects are not just local projects. If that were the case, we probably wouldn't have \$2 million invested. So the work you do will have national impact. We need the spinoff; we need the inter-applicability.

We look for all of you to help us in the massive task of bringing about results that will be of benefit to everyone in this great nation.

I regret that I cannot spend the full day with you, I know it would be interesting. But I assure you, I shall read the reports of this meeting with great interest, and I look forward to working together with all of you in meeting the many challenges that are part and parcel of urban transportation.

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