



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

37-S-72

OPENING STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE,
PRESS CONFERENCE, BURLINGTON, VERMONT, MAY 16, 1972

I am delighted to be here in Burlington. It is traditional during National Transportation Week for the Secretary of Transportation to visit a number of cities across the Nation, and I was most pleased to accept the joint invitation of the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Green Mountain Transportation Club to address their members.

I have two announcements to make that should be of interest. First, through our Urban Mass Transportation Administration, we have today given final approval to an application from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission for a \$15,000 technical studies grant relating to the operations of public transportation here. As you know, the Burlington Rapid Transit Company, serving the city and 5 nearby communities, has suffered a sharp decline in patronage and has announced its intention to discontinue service on June 16 -- one month from today.

The Regional Planning Commission will utilize our technical studies money to investigate ways to keep and improve the service. (In fact, under a letter of no prejudice, they have already initiated preliminary study.)

We anticipate that the study might very well lead to a capital grant application and I commend the Commission -- and the entire city and county leadership -- for moving quickly to resolve this problem. We are in a position to help, and we want to help.

In another mode of transportation, we also have approved applications from Burlington International Airport for a total of over \$92,000 under our Airport Development Aid Program. \$40,000 goes toward a master planning study of this increasingly-important gateway facility, and \$52,000 is

reimbursement for land purchase. I might note that since 1946 the Federal Government has allocated almost \$700,000 to this airport.

We are delighted to be able to assist transportation in Burlington in this way, and look forward to continued close cooperation.

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