



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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Statement by Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe at Cleveland Press Conference, Tuesday, May 16, 1972

I am delighted to have this opportunity to be in Cleveland once again. As you know from our tour and ceremony, my main purpose for being here today has been the dedication of our new ARTS III radar facility at Cleveland Hopkins Airport. This is a prime example of sharply-upgraded technology being utilized to make our air navigation system safer and more efficient.

In addition, I also have an announcement concerning another aspect of transportation in the Cleveland area.

I have approved an initial grant of \$582,000 from our Urban Mass Transportation Administration to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Co-ordinating Agency (N.O.A.C.A.) for the purpose of preparing a transit development program for the entire N.O.A.C.A. region, comprising five counties in the Cleveland area and two in the Akron area. The program includes priorities and financial requirements for all recommended improvements within a 5-year development period. Included will be scheduling, routing, fare structures and service levels of the various public transportation carriers in the region.

This is a study grant -- but in this particular case it represents considerably more. With areawide long-range planning underway, the N.O.A.C.A. region now becomes eligible for full two-thirds funding of capital grant projects. This means that we have also been able to approve an additional \$265,000 to the city of Euclid for new buses and a garage (bringing the total Federal funding to just over \$1 million. An additional

\$350,000 to the city of Akron for 30 new buses (bringing that total to \$1.4 million) and an additional \$2,210,000 to the Cleveland transit system for an overall improvement project involving 100 new buses and 10 new rapid transit cars (bringing that total to some \$8.8 million).

We are delighted to have been able to approve the study grant to N.O.A.C.A. -- not only because studies are important, but also because the region can now move ahead to complete the capital improvement projects.

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