

STATEMENT BY U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE UPON THE PASSAGE OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1970 BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SEPTEMBER 29, 1970, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The passage of the Public Transportation Act of 1970 by the House of Representatives marks the beginning of a new course for the mobility of people and goods through the cities of this Nation.

It's no secret that the Nation has not spent the money for public transportation in the past that it should have. Because of this failure we face the tremendous task of catching up on transportation needs.

This landmark measure, proposed by President Nixon last year provides sorely-needed financial aid to strangling and choking cities and towns -- large and small -- in all regions of this Nation. With this aid, we can roll up our sleeves and go to work.

The benefits of community living will become accessible to all citizens through the preservation and revitalizing of public transportation. Education, housing, jobs, medical care, recreation, cultural activities -- the whole gamut of social living -- will be more readily reached by all citizens with the maintenance of public transportation systems.

The whole-hearted support for this program by the House of Representatives and, earlier, by the Senate serves as a legislative mandate to get people moving in our urban areas.

This measure, which will provide \$10 billion over a 12-year period -- will give the nation's cities -- large and small, I wish to re-emphasize -- the assurance of long-term Federal funding that is needed for municipalities to be assured of Federal grants and raise their own share of the funds needed.

We have studied the public transportation problem for too many years. The time for action is now!

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