



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

38-S-72

OPENING STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE,
PRESS CONFERENCE, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, MAY 17, 1972

One of our major efforts -- as we work to improve public transportation ridership across the country -- is to make transit attractive, clean, safe and desirable. While the efficient, fast, mass movement of people through urban areas is a big plus for city dwellers, we know that it is not enough. We know that comfort, cleanliness and pleasant surroundings are a large part of getting people to use the systems.

The MBTA is already well along with a massive station modernization program. Some \$7 million in Federal Department of Transportation funds have been used to upgrade a number of stations such as Arlington, Airport, and Fields Corner.

We have, this week, approved funds for a continuation of this program in the amount of over \$9.5 million. The following stations are involved: Washington Street, Park Street, State Street, Essex, Auditorium, Haymarket and Ashmont. This will be a 5-year project, and will include such improvements as new wall surfaces, flooring, stairs, escalators, acoustical treatment, heated shelters where appropriate, new lighting and new fare collection facilities.

I might note that this new capital grant brings such Federal funding to the MBTA to a total of close to \$177 million. This is the fourth largest total in the country and is exceeded only by Chicago, New York, and San Francisco. I am delighted that this Administration is in a position to continue to help our vital urban public transportation systems.

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U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION EXPOSITION
DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT * MAY 27-JUNE 4, 1972

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