



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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OPENING STATEMENT BY U. S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE PRESS CONFERENCE, WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1972

I am delighted to be back in Manchester. (And glad that the snow has melted from the runway at Grenier Field.)

As you may remember, when I was last here in Manchester Mayor Du Puis and others gave me a full briefing and tour concerning the city's public transportation problems. I noted at that time that the city should look into applying for a technical studies grant from our Urban Mass Transportation Administration. We received that application within three weeks. It includes a proposal for a review of present operations, an analysis of potential demand for public transportation, recommendations for effective programs for providing needed service, and a plan for immediate implementation. We are in full accord that such a study should be made, and I have approved a \$34,000 grant to the city of Manchester for this purpose.

We are hopeful that the study will lead to a program for rescue and improvement of the transit system here. As I told the Manchester Downtown Associates back in March, "without good public transportation a city begins to choke and die. It loses its core -- its heart; it loses business, and I am sure you don't want that to happen here."

I am delighted that the city moved so fast to cope with this problem, and I'm glad we are in a position to help.

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