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STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY WEEK SEPTEMBER 24-30, 1972.

Observance of National Highway Week would not be complete without recognition of the role played by the Interstate Highway System. I was fortunate to have been a member of a special Task Force which reported in 1956 to President Eisenhower the feasibility of constructing this system, which has proved to be the greatest and most beneficial public works program in our history.

Its completion -- which has high priority from President Nixon -- will mean 20 percent of the nation's traffic will move over less than 2 percent of the total highway mileage.

Yet, this 42,500-mile system is a project OF THE PEOPLE (their tax money built it), BY THE PEOPLE (thousands of workers and businesses benefit from it) AND FOR THE PEOPLE (there are 112 million motor vehicles registered in the U.S. today; 162 million by 1990).

This year's National Highway Week slogan, then, is most appropriate -- "Highways Help People." Highways help people get to and from work, and to and from recreation. Highways literally help people exist. And with our current technology, highways enable travelers to live longer. Our highway system, the envy of the entire world, is twice as safe as any built. National Highway Week is most deserving of recognition for the vital part highways play in our daily lives.

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