



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today appealed to the public to join with him in a New Year's resolution:

"Since assuming office in January of 1969, I have seen the annual highway death toll decline from 56,000 in my first year of office to 54,800 last year. It will be some time before the statistics are collected, but current projections indicate the highway death toll for the year now ending will again be slightly lower than the previous year.

"During the same two-year period the number of drivers using the Nation's highways increased by 7 million and the number of vehicles by 8 million.

"A declining highway death toll in the face of this massive increase in highway use testifies to the fact that our cooperative traffic safety program, involving business and industry, the public at large, and governments at all levels, is beginning to pay off.

"But the result is not good enough. An annual tabulation of human carnage that for six years running has exceeded the 50,000 level is intolerable in our civilized society.

"I, John Volpe, hereby resolve to continue the utmost in my power to dramatically improve the Nation's highway safety record in 1972.

"I appeal to the Nation's 115 million drivers to join me in this resolution for 1972."

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