

U.S. Department of Transportation news:



Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT, RIDESHARING GOVERNMENT AWARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
APRIL 8, 1980

I am pleased to be here today to announce that you will be getting \$175,000 to promote more carpools and vanpools in Boston and other urban areas of the state.

This grant is part of a \$2 million ridesharing demonstration project that will operate in 16 states.

Massachusetts was selected for one of the grants because of its relatively high population density and because of efforts being made here to help the disadvantaged from the city get to job markets in the suburbs.

The funds will go to your ridesharing organization--Masspool, Inc.--which already reaches 700,000 employees, about one-fourth of the state's work force. Masspool will be able to extend its carpooling and vanpooling activities even further into the state's urban areas with these additional funds.

Ridesharing and vanpooling can be of major importance in this time of high-priced gasoline.

About 52 million people drive to work alone, while only 21 million are in carpools, vanpools or use public transit. If all single drivers were persuaded to carry one passenger, 22.7 million gallons of gasoline could be saved each workday.

As another means of encouraging vanpooling, I would like to see Massachusetts take advantage of the interest-free loan provision of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978. This allows the use of federal-aid highway funds as interest free loans to acquire vanpool vehicles. These loan costs can be paid off through fees collected from users of the van.

So I'm happy to make this money available and to congratulate Governor King, Secretary Locke and the other public and community leaders who have put their best efforts behind ridesharing in the state of Massachusetts.

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