

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.
FOUR TRANSPORTATION PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS
OCTOBER 20, 1992
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Thank you ... It's a pleasure to be here at the Milwaukee Union Station with Gov. Tommy Thompson and Secretary of Transportation Charles Thompson to announce federal support of four significant local transportation projects.

Gov. Thompson has made Wisconsin a leader in transportation. He has taken advantage of every opportunity and flexibility allowed under federal law. That's exactly what President Bush intended when he announced the National Transportation Policy early in his Administration, and then last year signed the revolutionary legislation we all call "ISTEA."

The goal of the Bush Administration has been to give the states the flexibility to create the kind of transportation systems that meet the needs of local users. That's what Tommy Thompson is doing with tremendous success.

My role and the role of the federal government is to focus on linking up all these state and local systems into a vast national intermodal network. That intermodal network, which includes these Milwaukee projects, will improve our nation's productivity and increase our competitiveness in global markets. In addition, each of these projects creates jobs and strengthens the economy.

First. Milwaukee to Chicago is part of one of the high speed rail corridors selected under ISTEA. The Southeastern Regional Planning Commission (7-county MPO) recognized that Milwaukee will need a high capacity downtown passenger terminal which combines public transit with intercity service providers.

Therefore, we are announcing a federal grant of \$100,000 to prepare a plan to develop an intermodal transportation center in the Milwaukee area. The center will link up transportation services.

Second. Technology is the wave of the future in transportation. That's why President Bush insisted that the ISTEA include technological development and bring in the private sector as a full partner. ISTEA did just that -- including funding for an Advanced Transportation Systems and Electric Vehicles Program.

Today, we are announcing \$1.2 million in funding for a project of the Advanced Lead Acid Battery Consortium which includes **Johnson Controls, Inc. of Milwaukee**. The grant goes to International Lead Zinc Research Organization, Inc., of Research Triangle Park, N.C., but **Johnson** is an important member of the consortium. The project is intended to develop rapid recharge technology for lead-acid batteries. It also will examine infrastructure issues associated with rapid recharging, and develop a basic battery monitoring and control system.

Third. We are announcing a grant to the Milwaukee County Department of Public Works and Development for work on another technological development -- a cable suspended light rail system.

This Suspended Light Rail Technology pilot project was also established by the ISTEA. The three-mile rail loop will connect the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center Complex and its 28,000 employees with a new research center and a satellite parking lot. This is exciting technology that will move people efficiently.

Finally, it is my pleasure to announce that the Federal Highway Administration has approved a 104-mile stretch of State Highways 51 and 78 for designation as a part of the Interstate Highway System. This route connects major population centers and is critical to key industries, such as manufacturing, pulp and paper, agriculture and tourism, which depend on the quality of these highways.

These projects will move Wisconsin people and products into the future, and they represent a "win-win" situation for everyone here today.

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