

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.
FTA GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
OCTOBER 29, 1992

TALKING POINTS

Thank you ... and let me acknowledge Bill Millar
(Executive Director of Port Authority of Allegheny) and
John Robin (PAT Board Chairman), Senator Spector,
Congressman Rick Santorum ...

A General during the Civil War once said that the
key to victory is to get there the quickest with the
most men. In a way, that's what we are doing here
today -- funding an HOV project to quickly move buses
full of passengers to the vital Western suburbs of
Pittsburgh.

To assist the Port Authority of Allegheny County in their fight to reduce congestion on the highway, we are pleased to announce a capital assistance grant of over \$13 million. This grant will specifically aid in the financing of the first phase of the Airport Busway/Wabash HOV project between downtown Pittsburgh and the Western suburbs. An additional \$11.35 million will be made available following clearance from the Labor Department.

These funds will be used to assist in the preliminary engineering and design of a busway to the Borough of Carnegie -- which, when completed, will include a new river crossing ... the refitting of the Wabash Tunnel ... and the construction of the busway itself.

Overall, this project launches one of the largest and most far-reaching transportation programs in your city's history.

This project is also important for another reason -- it's one of the first projects to take advantage of the flexibility provision provided in the surface transportation authorization bill signed by the President last December. Designated grants from both the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration will be combined to fund this major intermodal effort.

This is intermodal planning at its very best, and it wouldn't have been possible without the assistance and cooperation of everyone involved -- including representatives of both federal agencies, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation ...

the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission ... the City of Pittsburgh ... Allegheny County ... and PAT ... and the other municipalities. By working closely together, we were able to remove quickly and efficiently any barriers that stood in the way of this vital project -- let's continue this great working relationship.

In addition, I just want to add that I understand the importance of the planned PAT extension of the Martin Luther King, Jr., busway to Swissvale. It's an important piece of the Allegheny County busway program and we hope to have an announcement regarding its approval in the near future.

Again, thank you for joining me today, and I wish you success in this and all your efforts to improve the state's transportation system.

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