



333

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

June 23, 1997

TO: The Secretary

FR: Suzanne *Suzanne*

RE: LBJ Recognition Event in Austin, Texas

Kate and I met with William Clyburn of Senator Robb's staff last week to discuss the Senator and other members of the Johnson Family's participation in events to honor the leadership role of President Johnson in creating the Department of Transportation thirty years ago.

Senator Robb's staff has not given us an exact date for the event with the explanation that the Senator is still talking to and coordinating with his family, particularly his mother-in-law. President Johnson's birthday is August 27 and his family gathers in Austin each year to lay a wreath at his grave. We discuss the possibility of doing something either the day before the 27th or the day after. With this in mind, our suggestion is to plan a one-day symposium at the University of Texas LBJ School. On the morning of the symposium, a tree-planting ceremony to acknowledge both President and Mrs. Johnson's roles in highway beautification and environment issues would be held.

Our recommendation for a symposium format is to convene two panels: one in the morning, the other to follow a luncheon.

We have asked Steve Palmer, a graduate of the LBJ School, to meet with the Dean of the School to solicit their support for and participation in a symposium while Steve is in Austin on other business this week. In addition to garnering their support, Steve will seek guidance on possible speakers and attendees.

ACTION ITEMS:

* We are convening another planning group to work on this event. To help us establish such a group, the LBJ events will be an agenda item at the next Senior Staff meeting. We would also ask that you lend your personal support to this event and ask the modal administrators and assistant secretaries to make sure that a **high level** representative from

each of their agencies and offices **actively** participates in the planning.

* We have also asked Kelley Coyner to consider the role the overall event could play in enhancing the Garrett A. Morgan Initiative. Considering that we hope to include students from the LBJ School, there may be some good opportunities. Kelly, also a former Texan, will report back with ideas next week.

* Next week, we want to finalize the date with Senator Robb's office, send confirmation letters from you to the Senator and his family, the LBJ School leadership, and other VIPs, and finally, create two teams out of our planning committee: one to handle on-site logistics, the other to focus on the message of the symposium (including speakers, guests, and your role).



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

June 27, 1997

TO: The Secretary

FR: Suzanne *[Handwritten signature]*

RE: DOT Reunion Picnic

I understand that you may want to announce the plans for the Austin, Texas events to honor the leadership role of President Johnson in creating the Department of Transportation thirty years ago.

A memo updating you on our conversations with Senator Robb's staff is attached. Since we are still waiting for the Senator's confirmation of the exact date, I recommend making these general points:

To honor the leadership role President Johnson had in creating the Department of Transportation thirty years ago, the Department is planning a one-day symposium at the University of Texas LBJ School. President Johnson, seeing a transportation network posed on the edge of amazing growth in size, use, and capacity, focused on the need for improvements in safety and saw the formation of a Department of Transportation as one way to help ensure that safety was a priority policy issue. Now, living in a time of major developments in intermodal access and connectivity, we know the true extent of President Johnson's visionary action in realizing the need for bringing the different modes together in one Department and making it happen. Our symposium will focus on the future of transportation in both these areas as well as what the next thirty years holds for transportation improvements and how we prepare as a nation for the changes.

On the morning of the symposium, a tree-planting ceremony to acknowledge both President and Mrs. Johnson's roles in highway beautification and environment issues would be held.

Each year, President Johnson's family gathers in Austin to lay a wreath on his grave on his birthday, August 27. The Department's events are being coordinated with the Johnson family around this important date.



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Memorandum

Subject: Department of Transportation Tribute to
President Lyndon Baines Johnson

Date: July 8, 1997

From: Kate Hallahan
Special Assistant to the Secretary

Reply to
Attn. of:

To: Governor Ann Richards

Through: Helene

I understand that Secretary Slater may have had the chance to discuss with you the year long celebration of the Department of Transportation's 30th anniversary. As part of this celebration, we would like to pay tribute to President Johnson's vision and leadership in creating the United States Department of Transportation. We would also like use the tribute as an opportunity to look to the next thirty years of the Department and how it and the transportation industry may change in the new millenium.

Here is the tentative schedule of events for the Department's tribute to President Johnson. The date will either be August 26 or August 27, President Johnson's birthday. Senator Robb, who is coordinating with his family, is expected to finalize the date today.

DRAFT SCHEDULE

11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

National Wildflower Research Center Media Event
4801 La Crosse Boulevard
Austin, TX
(512) 292-4100

This event will honor Mrs. Johnson's contributions to highway beautification and highlight the importance of the Department's environmental programs. The Department may possibly be making a grant announcement at this event.

Speakers include: Secretary Slater, Senator Robb, Representatives of the Wildflower Center.

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Lunch (TBD)

2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

A Forum on the "Opportunities & Challenges for Transportation in the New Millenium"

Lyndon Baines Johnson Library Auditorium (T)

2313 Red River St.

Austin, TX

(512) 916-5137

The tentative program for the forum is as follows:

Welcome -- Representative of LBJ School

Reflections on President Johnson's Life -- Governor Ann Richards or Representative Jake Pickle (Tentative for both)

Remarks -- Secretary Rodney Slater

Award Presentation to Johnson Family -- Secretary Slater, Senator Robb, Johnson Family

Transportation Forum--One panel of transportation visionaries (possible panelists include: Fred Smith of Federal Express, Herb Kelleher of Southwest Airlines, Rob Krebs of BNSF Railroad) The University has expressed an interest in including a speaker from the Johnson Administration. Moderator to be determined.

NOTE: These events may be scheduled for earlier in the day depending on the Johnson Family availability. Governor Richards is of course invited to attend the lunch as it is developed and the Wildflower event.