

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.
OPENING OF I-526 --THE MARK CLARK EXPRESSWAY
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
JUNE 20, 1992

- It's great to be here in my second home state. You can tell by my accent that I'm from Massachusetts. But I spent some wonderful years getting my bachelor's degree in engineering at the University of South Carolina. So I adopted South Carolina as my second home state.
- It's especially good to be here today with Governor Campbell, Senator Thurmond, and Senator Hollings, to open the last major link of the Interstate System in the Palmetto state.
- Charleston today is a sharp contrast to the landscape that existed here less than two years ago, following the devastation by Hurricane Hugo.
 - Since September 1989, Charleston has undergone complete restoration. Such rapid progress reflects the vibrant spirit, determination and will of South Carolinians.
 - Congratulations on coming so far so fast.
- That's what we are trying to do in transportation. Rebuild, restore and expand our infrastructure as quickly as possible.

- When President Bush signed the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act last December, he ordered us to get the money into the pipeline to the states right away.
 - We call the historic legislation ISTEA.
 - The President asked us to use the \$155 billion provided by ISTEA, not only to create a revolution in transportation but at the same time jump start our economy.
- Thanks to states like South Carolina, we are succeeding.
 - The new legislation allocates more than \$1.6 billion for South Carolina in FY1992-97.
 - South Carolina has obligated about \$138 million or 56 percent of its FY 1992 Federal Highway Funds.
 - Governor Campbell deserves credit for moving this money into the pipeline.
 - Let me also congratulate Governor Campbell on using the match waiver provisions of ISTEA to ensure that South Carolina takes full part in a national revolution in transportation.

- The match waiver entitles a state to get its allocation without providing matching funds, and pay the match back in later years when the economy will be improved and funds will be more accessible. It only makes smart business sense to use that waiver if you need it to become part of the revolution in transportation.
- It's a new revolution that is already creating jobs; not only jobs in construction and support industries, but jobs from the development that goes with good transportation.
- The Mark Clark Expressway is an outstanding illustration of the connection between transportation, jobs, and economic development.
 - Because of this final link of the expressway across the Cooper River, you can look forward to development of Daniel Island. This will add nearly \$2 billion to the Charleston area tax base over the next 20 to 30 years.
 - For starters, tri-county officials have chosen a 100-acre site on Daniel Island for a proposed military accounting center, which would employ 4,000.

- But that's not all. ISTEA promotes intermodalism -- linking up America.

-- And in that spirit, the State Ports Authority is purchasing 827 acres of Daniel Island for a \$700 million shipping terminal on the Cooper River. So the Mark Clark Expressway becomes an important intermodal link, even as it opens.

- Before I close, let me emphasize how much the national recovery depends upon ISTEA, and continued revitalization of our infrastructure.

- Recently the House Appropriations Subcommittee reduced the fiscal year appropriation level for highway programs in 1993 by \$2 billion below the President's request. This causes considerable concern.

-- You in the states and localities deserve an ongoing even flow of predictable federal funding assistance for transportation needs. When you begin a multi-million dollar project you know it will require several years of uninterrupted work and funding.

- It is inefficient and costly if funding ebbs and flows. The President's budget would continue the flow of funds and not make South Carolina or any other state vulnerable to funding shortfalls. That's how the Act was intended and that's how I hope it continues. Our economy depends on it. Our citizens deserve no less.
- You are making all the right moves in Charleston. Keep moving forward.
- Thank you very much.

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