



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The prospect for improved public transportation in Lincoln, Nebraska was enhanced today by Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe's announcement of a \$29,004 grant to that city as aid for public transit planning.

"I congratulate Lincoln for its enlightened action of including the major role of public transit in planned economic development," Secretary Volpe said.

"For too long public transit has been treated as an ugly stepsister. If we are to prevent our Nation from being strangled by traffic congestion, public transit must be given higher status in the transportation family."

The Federal grant will meet two-thirds of the cost of a study of the city's short and long range public transit needs. It is expected to be completed within eight months and will be directed by Douglas E. Brogden, Director of Planning for Lincoln.

Public bus transportation is provided in Lincoln by a subsidiary of National City Lines, Lincoln City Lines. The company has experienced a decline in patronage in recent years and its response has been to decrease service and raise fares.

The study will examine potential service improvements and capital requirements to obtain them. Special attention will be given to low income areas of the city, the University of Nebraska, the central business district and land that was formerly the Lincoln Air Force Base which is now being developed residentially and industrially.

The study will explore also the potential future role of the city as a participant in public transit through subsidy or ownership.

Project No. NEB-T9-3

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