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The nation's public transit problems transcend its continental shores.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe announced today a \$180,000 Federal grant to the City and County of Honolulu which represents two-thirds of the cost of a public transit development study for the Hawaiian Island of Oahu.

"Honolulu's example of recognizing the vital role of public transit planning in meeting the social and economic stresses imposed by rapid population growth must be followed throughout the nation if we are to avoid the stagnation of traffic congestion," Secretary Volpe said.

The City and County of Honolulu is a single governmental jurisdiction of the 610 square mile Island Oahu.

The Island's population growth has exceeded all planning projections at 656,800. Additionally, there are between 25,000 and 30,000 tourists on the Island daily.

Despite the 40% increase in population in the past decade, bus ridership has declined on the three privately owned lines which serve the Island.

Many of the low income areas of Honolulu are not now served by transit. Also without service are Windward Oahu with a population of about 100,000 and rural portions of western Oahu.

- more -

Planned to be accomplished with the aid of the Federal grant are:

- * An analysis of the existing service.
- * Recommendations for future management and operation alternatives directed at the establishment of a unified, Islandwide public transit system.
- * Development of an immediate bus improvement program.
- * Financial analysis of capital costs, revenue and expenditure projections and potential subsidy requirements and their source.
- * Development of a public information and education program to encourage increased patronage of the transit system.

The study will be carried out under the direction of Honolulu's Managing Director with the assistance of the City's Transportation Coordinator.

Project No. Hawaii-T9-2

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