



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$168,000 grant to the City of Houston, Texas for a feasibility study of an elevated circulatory transit system in southwest Houston.

"A rapidly growing population, large land area, extensive construction and the lack of a rapid transit system," Volpe said, "have made Houston almost totally dependent on the automobile for mobility. This low-speed circulatory system, and others like it, could serve as feeders for a high-speed transit system linking various part of the city."

The system is proposed for the Post Oak-Westheimer urban complex which has now, or under construction, more than 3.6 million square feet of office and commercial space, 6,125 residential units and a 410-room hotel.

The transit system would include approximately 4,000 feet of aerial double track and 500 feet of single track, automatic train controls and stations completely enclosed in existing or planned buildings.

Vehicles would be lightweight, carry 15 to 20 passengers and operate singly or in trains on headways of 40 to 50 seconds. System capacity would be in the range of 1,500 to 5,000 passengers per hour in a single direction.

The City said in its application: 98 percent of the people using the complex get there by automobile. Sidewalks within the complex are inadequate or non-existent so that walking is difficult and often dangerous.

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Rather than walk, motorists now drive from point to point within the complex and this movement adds to the already heavy traffic flow on feeder roads.

Lessening the dependence upon the automobile, would reduce parking requirements, afford more efficient land use and preclude extensive future street improvements.

The Department of Transportation grant was made by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. It provides two-thirds of the \$252,000 cost for the engineering and economic feasibility studies. Total cost for building and equipping the project is estimated at about \$5.5 million.

Project No. TEX-MTD-4

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