



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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"Secretary John A. Volpe and I feel that downtown public transportation needs more equipment, more service, more attention and more money." The statement was made by Carlos C. Villarreal, Administrator, Urban Mass Transportation Administration, in Cleveland on Friday, December 5th.

Mr. Villarreal was in Cleveland to meet with downtown business executives and Mayor Stokes' Cleveland Transportation Action Program.

Mr. Villarreal said that "Downtown congestion limits job opportunities, hurts retail store sales and lessens property values. Our cities can't afford this and the Urban Mass Transportation Administration is doing something about it. Our recent grant to the City of Cleveland for a downtown shoppers loop is just one small example of what can be done."

"President Nixon has given public transportation a new national priority. His Public Transportation Assistance Act of 1969 is now pending in Congress. It provides for \$10 billion during the coming twelve years to improve bus, subway and rapid transit systems," Mr. Villarreal said.

The Administrator also pointed out that a grant similar to the one made to Cleveland was recently made to the City of Atlanta. The UMTA Demonstration Project in the Georgia Metropolis, inaugurated November 28th, provides a shuttle bus route between parking spaces at Atlanta Stadium and Civic Center with the central business district.

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"Business and government leaders here in Cleveland are showing that people still want their downtowns to thrive. The Santa Loop proves it," Mr. Villarreal said.

"People often don't go downtown to shop simply because there's no room to drive an automobile, or no place to park. The alternative is to provide another form of transportation once in the center city. The Santa Loop is such a service.

"Some things just naturally go together, like bread and butter. Christmas shoppers and the city go together, too. There's even a song about it.

"It's been one of our traditions. We don't like to give up our traditions; the business and government leaders of Cleveland are letting it be known that they aren't about to let this tradition go."

The contingent from Washington included Representatives Michael Feighan, Charles A. Vanik and Louis Stokes, in addition to Mr. Villarreal and members of his staff. While in Cleveland, they met and talked with business and government leaders, and representatives of the Cleveland Transportation Action Program.

The Washington delegation rode the Santa Loop between engagements. They also rode the Cleveland Rapid, the high speed rail link between the city and Cleveland Hopkins Airport. The rail connector was in part financed by an UMTA Capital Grant.

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