



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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Secretary John A. Volpe has announced the awarding of a \$9,000 grant to the Lee County, Mississippi, Council of Governments. The purpose of the grant is to explore the feasibility of a public transit system in the city of Tupelo, Mississippi, and surrounding Lee County.

Secretary Volpe said in announcing the award, "This grant will make possible a \$13,500 technical study by the Lee County Council of Governments to determine the short range public transportation needs of Lee County and the City of Tupelo.

"The study will also examine the legislative and financial issues relative to instituting a transit system, and it will make recommendations for the creation, management and operation of a suitable system."

Carlos C. Villarreal, Administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, the agency making the grant, said "Tupelo's population has grown to 30,000 and Lee County to 52,000 while attracting many diversified manufacturing firms into the area. No county-wide, public transportation is available and with most industries located along a north-south route, we feel that a public transportation system may be feasible at this time. This study should give us the necessary answers."

The study will require nine months to complete; recommendations will be reviewed by a local advisory committee and coordinated with other local planning activities.

For further information:

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