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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced two grants, totaling \$692,092, for mass transportation projects in Seattle, Washington.

"Seattle is demonstrating its foresight by using the potential of public transportation before it is confronted with a transportation crisis similar in other cities today," Secretary Volpe said.

"Seattle is attempting to anticipate the problems inherent in its projected population growth and the city's coordinated public transportation system should be capable of meeting both short-and long-term needs of the metropolitan area."

Secretary Volpe noted that Seattle's projected transportation system is significant because it will be designed to recognize and enhance the quality of the area which it serves.

"President Nixon has announced that his administration would encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment as part of the new National Environmental Policy," Secretary Volpe said. "Seattle's plan is a good example of what the President has in mind."

One of the Seattle grants announced today is \$430,000 for a technical study (Project No. WASH-T9-1) which will help the city complete a long-range plan for a coordinated rail/bus mass transit system for the Seattle metropolitan area and a plan for implementing immediately a unified regional bus system. Both of these plans are tied to the City's upcoming election at which area residents will vote on a municipal bond issue to finance the metropolitan transit system.

The second grant, for \$262,092, was made to the Seattle Transit System (WASH-MTD-2) for its "Blue Streak" bus demonstration project. "Blue Streak" will test market attractiveness and traffic engineering effects of express bus operations on high-speed, reversible freeway lanes. "Blue Streak" will also have preferential rights at freeway entrances and exits and on downtown streets.

The grants were made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration. Both grants supplement earlier Federal funding and bring the total Federal contribution for these projects to \$2,539,935, or two-thirds of the total cost.

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