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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$1,021,315 demonstration grant to the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport Board for a circulatory transportation system at the regional airport now being built near Arlington, Texas.

"The Dallas-Fort Worth Airport Board," Secretary Volpe said, "has taken the first critical step in developing the necessary hardware for circulatory systems at major activity centers and the Department of Transportation intends to capitalize on it.

"Although research studies have shown the need for these systems at center cities, new towns, airports, education and medical centers," Secretary Volpe continued, "the hardware to do the job has not been developed. The risks were too high and no one had been willing to take the first step and build an operating system.

"I am anxious to move beyond studies and do something about public transportation problems. The Board's willingness to build a prototype system will give the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration a full-scale laboratory to test many of the concepts developed by the studies."

The Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport is, in effect, two airports flanking a multi-lane expressway between the two cities. The problems of moving passengers, baggage and air cargo among the various terminal modules on either side of the expressway is stimulating the development of a new kind of circulatory system.

The Board has spent \$384,000 on first stage development work and will contribute \$450,000 to the demonstration phase.

It has selected two companies to provide mock-ups of proposed systems, one of which will be selected for a prototype demonstration.

The two companies are Dashaveyor Company of Los Angeles, California and Varo, Incorporated of Garrett, Texas.

The prototype, to be built at the airport site, will consist of about 1500 feet of test track with vehicles, switches and passenger stations. The demonstration will include testing of the riding and switching qualities of the vehicles and an evaluation of automatic control equipment.

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