



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The songwriters who have found plenty of material to compose lyrics about in the quaint city of New Orleans may have something new to chant about if a Federal study produces results. It involves a \$59,666 grant announced today by Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe to study the commuting problems of New Orleans.

One of the proposals is referred to as "park and paddle." It envisions transporting commuters across the Mississippi from parking lots by ferry.

The other is a "park and ride" proposal in which parking facilities would be constructed on the west bank of the historic Mississippi and express bus service would be provided for commuters to the central business district.

The proposals are designed to solve the transportation problems of the West Bank residential area of Greater New Orleans that has experienced a 50,000 population growth in the past ten years with a projected increase of 60,000 by 1980.

The only direct access to the Central New Orleans business district from the booming suburb is via the Greater New Orleans Bridge that is taxed to capacity during off-peak hours let alone the tremendous congestion during peak periods.

The Federal grant was made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, headed by Carlos C. Villarreal. It will be augmented by a contribution of \$29,834 from the City of New Orleans.

Grant number LA-T9-3.

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