



**DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

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**URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATION**

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$146,666 grant to the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, the regional planning agency in the St. Louis metropolitan area, to assist in a socio-economic study of the benefits of a proposed 82-mile rapid transit system.

The grant, made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration under its technical study program, will be matched with \$73,334 in local contributions.

This study is a follow-up to a recent rapid transit feasibility study in the St. Louis area, sponsored by Bi-State Development Agency and supported by the East-West Council. While the Bi-State study has concentrated on technical and engineering aspects of rapid transit for the St. Louis region, the new study will examine implications of the transit system.

Primarily, the new 12-month study will measure public reaction to the proposed rapid transit system and will determine if St. Louis area residents will use and financially support it. An underlying goal of the study will be to develop a total transit package, including financial arrangements, so the transit system will be able to obtain needed bond referendum approval and other local support.

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"The St. Louis region is taking a highly commendable comprehensive look at future mass transportation problems," Secretary Volpe said. "Social and financial considerations are being given the same close scrutiny as engineering and design factors."

The East-West Council and Bi-State Development agency is an excellent example of cooperation between elected officials and transportation specialists to design an urban public transportation system to both serve and please the residents of the region, according to Carlos C. Villarreal, Administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

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