



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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Phone: (202) 426-4043

The Department of Transportation has approved a grant of \$57,132 to The American University of Washington, D.C., Secretary John A. Volpe announced today.

The funds, made available through the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will enable the University to conduct a three-day conference on the problems and needs of the transportation dependent, Secretary Volpe said.

The three-day conference will be held June 19-21, 1972 on the campus of American University. Federal, state, and local government officials will join transit industry officials, academic representatives and members of transit dependent groups.

Secretary Volpe said: "More than 50 million Americans are dependent upon public transportation. These are the elderly, the handicapped, the poor, and the very young. This conference will focus on their needs."

The grant is part of the service development program of UMTA. "President Nixon has called upon all Federal agencies to do all they can to enable the aging and the handicapped citizen to participate in the mainstream of American life," UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal said, "and Secretary Volpe has called upon UMTA to make this one of our highest priorities."

During the conference, participants will explore and analyze methods that are, or could be, employed by public transit bodies to meet the special needs of those persons who lack regular access to an automobile.

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Administrator Villarreal said: "The conference is expected to result in new information regarding the problems and solutions connected with the special needs of transit dependent groups." It should produce an increased awareness among the public of DOT-sponsored programs relating to the needs of these groups." Recommendations produced by the conference will be carefully considered by Federal, state, local, university and industry groups, the Administrator added.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs
(202) 426-4043. (DC-06-0070)

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