



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$5.8 million technical study grant to Chicago which will help provide a general design for relocating the city's antiquated "loop" elevated transit structure underground.

The grant, made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), will provide a system-wide design for a new Loop Subway and plans for a Distributor Subway in the central downtown area.

"The Chicago Urban Transportation District will combine our two-thirds Federal grant with \$2.9 million in local funds to pay for this first step," Secretary Volpe said. In addition, the technical study project will establish the management and administrative structure necessary for proper control of both projects, including a detailed design of one segment, the Secretary said.

"This grant is another step in President Nixon's five-year, multi-billion dollar program to improve public transit service in communities across the Nation," Secretary Volpe said. "Hundreds of thousands of Chicago area commuters will eventually benefit from this bold local decision to move ahead with a modern downtown rail transit system."

The Distributor Subway will be a new underground rail transit line which is expected to better distribute commuters throughout the downtown area. The Loop Subway also will be new construction, replacing the Windy City's old but famous "L" in the Loop area. The first segment of the Distributor Subway to be designed under today's grant will be a 1.9 mile section between the Chicago River and McCormick Place.

Secretary Volpe also announced another non-related grant to Chicago - - \$148,000 to draw up a plan for combating crime in public transit vehicles. Under the coordination of the city's Department of Public Works, an anti-crime

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plan will be formulated which probably will include the use of closed-circuit TV surveillance, improved transit communication networks and clandestine alarm systems.

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the Chicago Urban Transportation District, City Hall, Chicago, Illinois, 60602. (UMTA Project Numbers ILL-09-0014 and ILL-06-0023.)

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