



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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BROADCAST: Friday, January 12, 1973

This is the U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Friday, January 12 with a story on interior noise levels for commercial motor vehicles as well as an actuality on railroad track usage.

First, a story by a Department spokesman on the noise levels.

"The Federal Highway Administration's Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety has proposed a rule which would establish maximum interior noise levels for commercial motor vehicles operating in interstate or foreign commerce.

"About three-and-a-half to four million commercial drivers would be directly involved.

"The interior noise level would be limited to 88 decibels at the driver's position with the parked vehicle's engine running, and all windows, doors and vents closed.

"Previously, the Bureau pointed out a potential safety hazard from high noise levels in the cab of a truck or bus engaged in sustained highway travel and a possible occupational hazard of damage to the driver's hearing."

Next, an actuality by Federal Railroad Administrator John Ingram discussing the problem of railroad track usage. The comments are in connection with a meeting on light density railroads conducted by the FRA this week in Bolder, Colorado.

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"One of the many problems of the railroads in the U.S. is that rather surprising amount of track which is not being used -- or is being used only occasionally. The practical result of this situation is that heavily used main lines are actually subsidizing the shippers on low density lines. Almost 10 percent of the total rail system falls into this category.

"Secretary Volpe and I, under the guidance of President Nixon, are endeavoring to take all necessary steps to make our railroads more efficient, and resolving the problem of light density and branch lines is one of them.

"Today, although the railroads carry 50 percent of all surface freight in this country, some of the companies are having serious economic problems. We hope that by developing easily understandable criteria for keeping or disposing of lightly used or unused railroad, the overall efficiency of this most important common carrier can be improved."

This has been the Transportation News Report for Friday, January 12.

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