



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Tuesday, March 13, has a story on the Department Budget and an actuality from Congressional testimony on highway safety. First, a story on Secretary Brinegar's testimony on the Department's budget.

"The U.S. Department of Transportation's spending plans for the 1974 Fiscal Year will be held to the level now estimated for the current year. That testimony by Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar was given Tuesday in an appearance before a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee.

"The Secretary pegged the spending at \$8.7 billion. He noted that it reaffirms President Nixon's commitment of finding ways to solve critical transportation problems. At the same time, Secretary Brinegar said, this is in line with the President's goals of seeing that dollars are wisely spent and that overall expenditure levels are within the Nation's available resources."

Next is a story on highway safety testimony.

"Acting Federal Highway Administrator Ralph Bartelsmeyer testified today before the Senate Public Works Committee, Subcommittee on Transportation, on the 1973 Highway Safety Act. Mr. Bartelsmeyer expressed opposition to a part of the legislation which would provide for separate authorization for grants for bridge reconstruction and rail-highway crossings..."

"While we share the Committee's concern about highway safety in these two areas, we believe that states should establish programs based on their own highway safety priorities, and that funds for bridge replacement and rail-highway crossings should continue to come from money made available under the Federal-aid highway programs. In one state, bridge reconstruction might be the most sensible route toward improved safety. Another state may need grade crossing improvements. Finally, a third state may best meet its safety problems through the general upgrading and reconstruction of its rural road system."

For further information call 202-426-0648.

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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