



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Thursday, June 14 has stories on stabilizing the economy and on dangerous bridges.

First, a story involving the Department and the economy by Assistant Secretary for Safety, Environment and Consumer Affairs Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.

"The Department of Transportation hails the recent action of President Nixon to stabilize the economy. We, at the Department have been working very hard at the direction of the President to eliminate bottlenecks in transportation which may impact prices by creating artificial situations of scarcity of some goods in certain parts of the country. We are particularly concerned with eliminating these bottlenecks as they affect the transportation of food. We will continue to actively participate with the Department of Agriculture, under the direction of the Committee on Food of the Cost of Living Council, to insure a continuous free flow of agriculture products from farm to market."

Next, data has shown that on Federal-aid highway systems, there are an estimated 12,000 bridges which are structurally deficient, and another 12,000 which are functionally obsolete and dangerous because of such things as inadequate width. Federal Highway Administrator Norbert T. Tiemann, who testified before the House Public Works Committee today on narrow bridge safety, commented on the problem:

"The problem of narrow, unsafe bridges all over the country is very serious - they are among the most dangerous hazards motorists encounter on our rural roads. Rebuilding all narrow bridges will be extremely costly -- and take a long time. In the meantime, however, we are taking steps to protect drivers through the installation of guardrails and other safety devices to minimize the effect of vehicle impact on exposed bridge abutments."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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