



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Monday, August 13 has excerpts from a statement by Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar on the President's signing of the Federal Highway Act.

President Nixon today signed the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1973, authorizing a total of \$23 billion for highway and mass transportation construction over the next three years. After the signing, Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar commented:

"The Act's most significant feature is its new approach to solving the urgent transportation problems of our urban areas. The Act gives urban transportation planners immediate flexibility in the uses of the Highway Trust Fund dollars that are allocated to urban areas. Now they will be able to consider trade-offs to such alternatives as buses, exclusive bus lanes, and rapid rail systems. Although this Act will do a great deal for urban transportation, these gains will not be made at the expense of the vital interstate highway system or needed improvements in rural highways.

"The Act also creates several new special highway safety programs -- such as the elimination of dangerous rail grade-crossings and other high-hazard situations.

"The Act even helps the bicycle rider -- perhaps the ultimate in the efficient usage of energy -- by providing up to \$120 million from the Trust Fund to be used for the construction of bicycle paths in connection with highway projects."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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