



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR SUNDAY RELEASE
August 19, 1973

DOT 58-73
Phone: (202) 426-4321

"We Have To Stop Meeting Like This." This admonition superimposed on a drawing of a traffic snarl is the rallying cry in Philadelphia's effort to alleviate traffic congestion by staggering work hours.

The campaign to stimulate interest and gain employer attention and employee support will be launched August 20th by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and ABACUS, an Alliance of Business and Academia. The goal is to involve 60,000 employees in the program.

Shifting the eight hour work day from the usual 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., to hours that begin at 7:30 through 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 through 5:30 p.m. spreads the traffic volume over a longer period of time.

"The staggered work hours program is a part of the Department of Transportation's Urban Corridor Demonstration Program, designed to test and demonstrate effective, low-cost techniques for reducing urban congestion," Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar said. "If successful, the results of this program will show a way for other cities to ease their traffic problems."

A \$104,000 grant, awarded to the DVRPC, was used to plan, implement, and evaluate the staggered work hours program and other corridor program projects in the Philadelphia area.

Philadelphia is one of seven cities participating in the Department's Urban Corridor Program.

####