



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Monday, August 20 has two actualities on staggered working hours and motorcycle safety.

First, a demonstration program attempting to stagger the working hours of Philadelphia commuters began today. Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Environment, Safety and Consumer Affairs, Benjamin Davis, commented:

"It has long been our policy to pursue any possible means of alleviating the traffic snarl in our cities, especially during the rush hour. The staggered work hour program now beginning in Philadelphia, if it's successful, could benefit many of our cities that have similar problems. The idea is to spread the commuting traffic out by shifting employees' work days from the standard 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to hours that begin at 7:30 to 9:30 in the morning and end at 3:30 to 5:30 in the afternoon. This type of plan, applied on a city-wide basis as we are trying in Philadelphia, can be an effective, low-cost means of easing congestion and pollution, which we can apply quickly without large-scale transit purchases and construction."

Next, the Department of Transportation has issued a new safety standard for performance requirements of motorcycle helmets. National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator, Dr. James Gregory, explained:

"Our new motorcycle helmet safety standard effective March, 1974, should contribute substantially to our program for increasing safety. Maximum protection of the motorcyclist is extremely important in order to reduce potential deaths and dangerous injuries resulting from head impacts. The standard establishes test requirements for helmets for shock absorption, resistance to pointed objects, and the strength of chin straps, and also for minimum levels for side vision and for projections on the interior or exterior of the helmet shell. We also require that the Department of Transportation symbol appear on the helmet to show that it conforms to the standard."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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