



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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BROADCAST NEWS SERVICE 73-223

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Wednesday, November 7, has a story by a Department spokesman on a study of highway fuel consumption.

"A Federal Highway Administration Study released today by the Department of Transportation shows that newer automobiles travelling at 70 mph consume 30.5% more gasoline than ones driven at 50 mph. The fuel consumption rates of 12 vehicles reflecting a variety of weights were tested at constant speeds of from 30 mph to 70 mph, and were operated over 3,000 miles. Since estimates put slightly over 25% of all highway travel at speeds exceeding 50 mph it is believed that total highway fuel consumption can be reduced by 5% if a 50 mph limit were enforced."

This advisory for broadcasters: A news briefing on the Northeast Rail Consolidation bill will be held by Transportation Secretary Brinegar at 3:00 p.m. eastern time today. The briefing will be held at DOT Headquarters in room 10234. Excerpts will be available by 4:30 p.m. eastern time.

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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