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DOT GRANT OF \$4.4 MILLION AIDS BROOKLYN TRANSIT MALL

An attractive transit mall will replace traffic congestion and crowded sidewalks in a downtown Brooklyn, N.Y., shopping district as a result of a federal grant announced today by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams.

The Secretary noted the project is consistent with the Carter Administration's use of federal money to improve the quality of urban living.

As a result of the project, the city has already approved an \$18 million privately-financed enclosed shopping center adjacent to the transit mall and is currently receiving and reviewing commitments for private financing of four other abutting projects.

The \$4,443,776 Department of Transportation grant is for the construction and equipping of a two-lane transitway on Fulton Street between Adams Street and Flatbush Avenue. The grant was made to the City of New York Transportation Administration by the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

A transit mall is a street which has been improved for pedestrian use, but retains a roadway reserved for transit vehicles integrated with the city-wide or regional transit system.

Today's award and a \$2,953,000 grant made early last year brings the total federal commitment to \$7,396,776 for the Fulton Street improvements. The mall design incorporates features needed for accessibility by elderly and handicapped people, including persons using wheelchairs.

Each day, approximately 200,000 shoppers visit the retail center in the heart of downtown Brooklyn. It ranks fourth among all downtown areas in the country in retail sales volume.

- 2 -

Sidewalks will be widened from eight to 12 feet along the eight-block area to facilitate pedestrian traffic, and the two-way transitway will be restricted to transit buses. The project also includes brick paving, bus passenger shelters, graphics, street furniture and landscaping.

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A local source for additional information is Mr. Richard Rosan, Director, Mayor's Office of Development, 2 Lafayette Street, New York, New York 10007 (212) 556-8580 (NY-03-0089-01)

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