OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY February 9, 1972

DOT-R-6 Phone: (202) 426-4321

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Consumer Affairs will continue its series of fact-finding hearings on consumer transportation problems in Cleveland on Thursday and Friday, February 10 and 11.

Miss Ann Uccello, Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs, was invited to address the Cleveland Engineering Society and to conduct a public hearing on the problems of the transportation user.

The hearings represent the Department's effort to get a true picture of the needs and concerns of the individual consumer of transportation products and services by going directly to the people.

In August 1970, Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe established an Office of Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Safety and Consumer Affairs to coordinate all safety related programs and deal with the problems of the transportation user. Retired Air Force General Benjamin O. Davis heads this office. In 1970, he was Director of Public Safety for the City of Cleveland.

When Secretary Volpe announced this series of hearings, he said that too many people just didn't know where they could turn with their transportation problems. The Office of Consumer Affairs within the Department was established to close that gap.

Ohio is the fifth state to be visited by the Office of Consumer Affairs. Hearings were held in Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Texas and Louisiana. In an effort to listen to all segments of the population, hearings in these states were conducted on college campuses as well as in cities.

The Cleveland hearings schedule is:

Thursday, February 10, 2 p.m., Main Auditorium, Main Classroom Building on the campus of Cleveland State University.

Friday, February 11, 2 p.m., Grasselli Library Lecture Room on the campus of John Carroll University. Miss Uccello will conduct both hearings.

Preceding the public hearings at John Carroll, Vincent F. DeCain, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety and Consumer Affairs, and a graduate of John Carroll, will discuss certain aspects of the Department's safety programs.

Friday, February 11, at a 6:30 p.m. dinner, Miss Uccello will address the Cleveland Engineering Society, 3100 Chester Avenue, on "The Role Of A Consumer Advocate In The Department Of Transportation." She will then conduct a hearing that will be open to the public. Reservations for the dinner can be made by contacting Donald Cornish at 361-3100.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 11, 1972

DOT 12-72 Phone: (202) 426-4321

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe announced another move today to modernize the Nation's transportation system through research and development to keep it abreast of national needs.

The Secretary disclosed that the Department of Transportation has awarded a contract for the construction of a prototype of the country's first passenger-carrying vehicle which will run without wheels on a cushion of air. "This is the kind of progress needed to prevent the Nation from falling behind in the critical field of transportation," Secretary Volpe said. "The contract calls for the production within 11 and one-half months of a 60-passenger prototype vehicle known as the TACV (Tracked Air-Cushion Vehicle). It will operate at speeds up to 150 miles per hour. It has no wheels and glides along a concrete guideway on a thin cushion of air, powered by a pollution-free linear induction (electric) motor."

The TACV is part of a substantially larger \$115 million urban transportation R&D program recently sent to Congress by President Nixon, and is a continuation of the engineering design phase of the TACV program announced last July. That phase, said Secretary Volpe, is now complete and work can be started on the construction of the vehicle.

The contract for construction of the TACV was awarded to Rohr Industries, Inc., of Chula Vista, California, by the Transportation Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration. Cost of the project will be approximately \$5 million.

Once the prototype vehicle is completed, it will undergo extensive testing and evaluation at the Department of Transportation Test Center near Pueblo, Colorado. Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal said the tests will be designed to assess the vehicle's performance, safety and operating costs. He said special emphasis will be given to determining its compatibility with the environment.



Secretary Volpe said the TACV project is being carried forward in compliance with the aims of President Nixon to develop and test new technologies for modernizing transportation without harm to the environment.

The TACV will seat 60 passengers with additional space provided for baggage. The 110-foot long vehicle will be equipped for fully automatic operation. Redundant systems provide safe braking. The vehicle/guideway interface prevents derailment at the 150 mph cruise speed by literally capturing the vehicle on the reaction rail. External sound suppression reduces noise levels to less than conventional highways.

For further information, contact Public Affairs Office, UMTA, (202) 426-4043, or Mr. George Ward, Program Manager, Rohr Industries, Inc., Chula Vista, California, (714) 426-7111.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 15, 1972

Phone:

DOT-R-09 (202) 426-4321

The Department of Transportation's Office of
Consumer Affairs will continue its series of public
hearings on consumer transportation problems on February
24, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe initiated the hearings to determine and evaluate transportation consumer needs throughout the nation and bring them to the attention of decision makers in the Department.

Miss Ann Uccello, Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs, will conduct two hearings in Greensboro.

The first hearing, sponsored by the Transportation Institute of North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, will be held in Merrick Hall, School of Business Administration, from 1 to 4 p.m., February 24.

The second hearing, sponsored by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, will be held in the Guilford County Court House, Courtroom #2, at 7:30 p.m.

Citizens of the Greensboro area are urged to attend and express their views on all modes of transportation; mass transit; auto, aircraft and boat rental; vehicle purchase and repair; and use of auto safety devices.

North Carolina is the seventh state to be visited by the Office of Consumer Affairs. Hearings were held in Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Texas, Louisiana, Ohio and Georgia. The Office of Consumer Affairs was invited to Georgia and North Carolina by Secretary Volpe's Regional Representative, Theodore N. McDowell.

"This region is experiencing a very exciting period of growth, economically and physically," McDowell said. "We welcome this opportunity to share our experiences, our ideas, and our transportation knowledge through the public hearing process."

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 15, 1972

Phone:

DOT-R-08 (202) 426-4321

The Department of Transportation's Office of
Consumer Affairs will continue its series of public
hearings on consumer transportation problems on February
23, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe initiated the hearings to determine and evaluate transportation consumer needs throughout the nation and bring them to the attention of decision makers in the Department.

Miss Ann Uccello, Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs, will conduct two hearings in Atlanta. Both will be sponsored by the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee of the Atlanta Regional Commission.

The first hearing, hosted by Atlanta University, will be held on campus, Room 201, Wright Hall, Chestnut Street, on February 23, at 1 p.m. Students of local colleges and universities have been invited to participate.

The second hearing, hosted by Georgia Tech, will be held on campus in the Student Center Ballroom, Hemphill Avenue, on February 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Citizens of the Atlanta area are urged to attend and express their views on all modes of transportation; mass transit; auto, aircraft and boat rental; vehicle purchase and repair; and use of auto safety devices.

Georgia is the sixth state to be visited by the Office of Consumer Affairs. Hearings were held in Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Texas, Louisiana and Ohio. After Atlanta, Miss Uccello will conduct two hearings in Greensboro, North Carolina before returning to Washington.

The Office of Consumer Affairs was invited to Georgia and North Carolina by Secretary Volpe's Regional Representative, Theodore N. McDowell.

"This region is experiencing a very exciting period of growth, economically and physically," McDowell said. "We welcome this opportunity to share our experiences, our ideas, and our transportation knowledge through the public hearing process."

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 16, 1972

DOT 14-72 Phone: (202) 426-4321

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe has announced the selection by President Nixon of two Department of Transportation Secretarial Representatives as chairmen of their respective Federal Regional Councils. This action was taken by the President as part of his effort to strengthen the ability of the ten Federal regional councils to respond more effectively to the needs of State and local communities.

Volpe said the President has named Norman A. Erbe, Representative for Region Five to serve as chairman of the Chicago Regional Council and Robert L. Kessler, Representative for Region Eight, to serve as chairman of the Denver Regional Council. Both appointments are for a term of one year.

Erbe, former governor of Iowa, has been serving the Chicago region for the past year. Kessler, former Deputy General Counsel for the Federal Railroad Administration, recently assumed the duties of Department representative in Denver.

"I am delighted the President has singled out Governor Erbe and Bob Kessler for these assignments. Governor Erbe has done an excellent job in Chicago and I know Bob Kessler will give us outstanding performance in Denver," Volpe said.

As chairmen of the Federal regional councils in their regions, Erbe and Kessler will work closely with the regional directors of HUD, HEW, DOL, OEO, EPA and LEAA. The President established the Federal Regional Councils to develop and maintain close working relationships with governors and local chief executives to coordinate their grant programs and to develop long term regional interagency and intergovernmental plans for more effective program delivery.



The ten regional headquarters in the standard Federal organization are: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, Dallas, Denver, San Francisco and Seattle.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 17, 1972 DOT-R-10

Phone: (202) 426-4321

The Department of Transportation today filed suit against the city of Evansville, Indiana, to halt its continued use of Daylight Savings Time during summer months contrary to Indiana State Law which requires Standard Time.

The department establishes time zone boundaries and administers the 1966 Uniform Time Law, which requires states to adopt Daylight Savings Time from the last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October, except where they vote to remain on Standard Time. However, the entire state must operate on one time even where time zones split it.

Indiana is one of 12 states divided by time zones; most of the state is in the Eastern Time zone while some western portions -- such as Evansville -- are in the Central Time zone.

In 1966, Evansville passed an ordinance adopting Central Daylight Savings Time for the summer months. But in 1970, the Indiana Legislature passed a law exempting the entire state from Daylight Savings Time and putting it on Standard Time (both Eastern and Central) for the summer months.

The civil action, filed in U.S. District Court in Indianapolis, alleges that Evansville has ignored a plea from the Department of Transportation to comply voluntarily with the state law. Its only recourse, the Department contends in the suit, is to obtain a court order declaring the Evansville ordinance invalid and ordering the city to go on Central Standard Time for the summer months.

Evansville contends this action will result in its trading area being divided by three time zones during summer months -- Eastern Standard (most of Indiana), Central Standard (its immediate area) and Central Daylight Savings (neighboring areas).

Despite this legal action, the Department of Transportation has sent to Congress a proposal to amend the 1966 Uniform Time Law to permit split time zone states such as Indiana to exempt part of their state from observing Daylight Savings Time. As the law now reads, no such exemptions are permitted.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY A.M. February 18, 1972

DOT 15-72 Phone: (202) 426-4321

The Department of Transportation today awarded a \$21,200 contract to the National Trust for Historic Preservation of Washington, D. C., to develop procedures to protect historic sites and buildings which might be affected by transportation programs.

A handbook will be developed showing the location of historical districts, sites and buildings. It is designed to aid transportation planners who will take the data into consideration during early planning stages.

Some of the material will be gathered for meetings conducted throughout the country with representation from the Departments of Transportation, Interior, and Housing and Urban Development; the Charleston, South Carolina, Historical Commission, the Rhode Island State Historical Commission and the New Orleans Historical Commission, plus at least three others.

A special effort is to be made to preserve historic sites, according to a provision of the Act that created the Department of Transportation. The Act also requires the Secretary of Transportation to refrain from approving programs which might affect such sites unless there is no alternative or unless steps are taken to minimize harm to such sites.

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TAD-493



NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 18, 1972 DOT 18-72 Phone: (202) 426-4321

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe will travel to Haddonfield, N. J., Saturday to inspect the Dial-a-Ride experimental public transit system during its first day of revenue operation.

He will be accompanied by Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal.

Dial-a-Ride will provide door-to-door public transit service in response to customers' telephoned requests within a five square mile area in and around Haddonfield.

In addition to local service, Dial-a-Ride will provide access to and distribution from a major station on the high-speed Lindenwold rapid transit line which operates between Philadelphia and southern New Jersey.

Service will be available 24 hours a day, each day of the week. One of the system's twelve vehicles is specially equipped to meet the needs of the physically handicapped.

The Dial-a-Ride demonstration project is jointly funded by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration and the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The Federal commitment is \$3,243,000.

Secretary Volpe and his party will travel from Washington to Philadelphia by Metroliner arriving 10:47 and will take the Lindenwold Line to Haddonfield arriving 1:30, when he will be met by the mayor.

Later on Saturday, Secretary Volpe will go to New York where he will bid farewell to French Minister of Transport Jean Chamant.

The French Minister is returning home after a week-long tour of transportation facilities in Washington, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Pueblo, Colorado.

Secretary Volpe and Minister Chamant on February 14, signed an agreement to expand transportation research cooperation between the United States and France.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY February 23, 1972

DOT 17-72 Phone: (202) 426-4321

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced that construction will begin this spring on a 10.2 mile extension of the Federally-owned Alaska Railroad from the city of Fairbanks to the Fairbanks International Airport.

The spur is designed primarily for rail-air freight interchange to meet the increased freight requirements caused by recent oil discoveries at the North Slope, the Secretary said.

The Department's Federal Railroad Administration estimated the cost of construction at approximately \$800,000 with completion in six months.

Secretary Volpe pointed out that Congress authorized the spur's construction, but did not appropriate funds for the project. Capital improvement programs must be borne by the Railroad since it is under Congressional mandate to operate within its revenues. All the Railroad's revenues are put into a revolving fund from which all the Railroad's expenses must be paid.

The Alaska Railroad has not required an appropriation from Congress for operating expenses since 1939. With the exception of emergency funds needed for rebuilding after the 1964 earthquake, the Railroad has not requested funds for capital improvements since fiscal year 1956, the Secretary added.

Last year, projected losses for the fiscal year of 1972, beginning July 1, 1971, cast serious doubts on the revolving fund's solvency. Increased revenues during the first five months of the fiscal year, however, converted early estimates of a \$2.9 million operating loss into an estimated \$4.4 million operating profit. Accordingly, the Railroad will proceed with its planned capital improvement program, including the airport spur, without depleting the revolving fund.





OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 23, 1972

DOT-R-13

Phone: (202) 426-4321

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today in Nashua, New Hampshire, announced a grant of \$99,526 to the New Hampshire Aeronautics Commission for a study leading to a state airport system plan.

The study will examine the capabilities of existing airports and their potential for expansion and will analyse the future aviation needs of the Granite State. The study will result in recommendations for expanding airport capacity during the next 20 years.

It will be coordinated with multi-modal transportation studies now underway in the State.

The Federal Grant was made by the Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration under its Planning Grant Program. It will cover two-thirds of the cost of the \$149,289 study. The remainder will be paid by the New Hampshire Aeronautics Commission.

The Planning Grant Program was established by the Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970 which was sponsored by the Nixon Administration. The Planning Grant Program encourages effective location and development of public airport sites throughout the nation.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 23, 1972

DOT-R-11 Phone: (202) 426-4321

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced the appointment of Dr. James Costantino of McLean, Virginia, as the Department's Secretarial Representative for Region Three, with head-quarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Costantino, 41, was sworn in today by the Secretary during ceremonies at the Department.

Costantino will represent the Secretary in the States of Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, District of Columbia and Maryland. Secretary Volpe said at the ceremony he was "extremely pleased to have a long time civil servant and former Federal Aviation Administration employee as my new representative in this region. Dr. Costantino brings to this office an exemplary career in government as well as an outstanding academic background in management and transportation economics."

The post of Secretarial Representative involves working with other members of the Federal Regional Council as well as serving as a member of the Council. He serves as the Department contact for State and local officials and the public by coordinating Departmental field activities involving two or more of the Department's seven operating administrations. The Department of Transportation, along with the other socio-economic-oriented Cabinet Departments, has regional head-quarters in each of the ten standard Federal regions.

Prior to joining the Department, Costantino was Deputy Director of Administration, Office of Manned Space Flight, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He also served as a NASA engineer in launch vehicle support programs during his nine years in the space program. While with the Federal Aviation Administration, he worked in the engineering division developing and establishing new air traffic control systems. He was the agency's nominee for the Arthur S. Fleming Award in 1961 and received two FAA superior performance awards and two NASA outstanding performance certificates.

Costantino has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts; a Masters in Engineering Administration from George Washington University and a Ph.D from American University. He is married and has two children.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY February 23, 1972

DOT-R-12-72 Phone: (202) 426-4321

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe will participate in a ground-breaking ceremony, Monday, February 28, for the construction of an \$850,000 landing strip at the Robert Moton Field of Tuskegee, Ala. The Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration funded the construction grant.

The occasion will reunite members of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group and 440 Bomber Group, all-black units of the Army Air Corps who distinguished themselves as fighter pilots during World War II.

Tuskegee Institute was the site where the first black pilots in the U.S. armed forces were trained. The first class of black pilots finished their primary training during the summer of 1941.

General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Safety and Consumer Affairs, who was a graduate of the first class and Commander of the 99th will return to Tuskegee for the ceremony.

Another black general who played a role in the Tuskegee Air Corps Primary Pilot Training program was Gen. Daniel (Chappie) James, currently Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. General James will attend.

In addition to the presence of the two black generals, many of black World War II flying aces who flew countless missions over Sicily, Italy, Germany and Rumania earning more than 30 Distinguished Flying Crosses, will be in Tuskegee for the event.

Dr. Luther Foster, President of Tuskegee, and Mayor C. M. Keever of Tuskegee are joint hosts.

The ground-breaking of the 5,000 foot landing strip will begin at 11:00 a.m. Secretary Volpe, President Foster, and Mayor Keever will participate.

Following the ceremonies, Federal Aviation Administrator John H. Shaffer, General Davis, and General James will be highlighted at luncheon for the returning veterans of the World War II flying units in Dorothy Hall, Tuskegee Institute.

The 128-acre airport was deeded to the city to be used by city as a municipal airport.

When finished, the fully-illuminated strip will be operational on a 24-hour basis.

Director of the field will be Charles (Chief) Anderson, one of the oldest licensed flight instructors in the Nation. Anderson who taught the first black pilots in 1941, instructs the Air ROTC students at Tuskegee today.

The FAA grant to Tuskegee represents the implementation of Secretary Volpe's equal opportunity policy that extends to all areas of the Department of Transportation's operations. Under this program, the Department has an aggressive program for the hiring of minorities in executive level positions, the issuance grants to black colleges, the awarding of grants to minority contractors along with a sensitive housing relocation policy that has become standard for all Federal agencies.

FAA's Office of Civil Rights was instrumental in obtaining technical assistance to the city and the institute to perfect the application for the landing strip grant.

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FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY February 23, 1972

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