



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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A study of long and short range public transit needs in the area of Omaha and Council Bluffs will be conducted with the assistance of a Federal grant of \$81,172 announced today by Secretary of Transportation, John A. Volpe.

The populations of the two Iowa cities have been characterized in recent years by spread and growth in suburban areas. Some major population centers within the region have now little or no public transit service.

"The role of public transit planning in sound economic community development must be given greater emphasis, if our communities are to continue to thrive," Secretary Volpe said.

The grant was made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, headed by Carlos C. Villarreal.

The short range element of the study will analyze present service, routing and equipment requirements and develop a public transit program for the next five years.

Also to be developed is public transit planning for the year 1985, including transportation networks and modes.

Separated by the Missouri River, Omaha and Council Bluffs are the principal cities in a three-county residential and industrial area.

The urban area population was 320,000 in 1960 and an increase to 400,000 is predicted for 1970.

The cities are served by the Omaha Transit Company and City Transit Lines, Inc. Both carriers will participate in the study with officials of the two cities aided by technical consultants.

Project No. NEB-T9-2

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