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JUN 30 1969

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE 3:00 P.M.
Friday, June 27, 1969

DOT 5-14469
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Improved and increased public transportation service in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is the objective of a study to be assisted by a Federal grant of \$34,662 announced today by Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

The grant was made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration, headed by Carlos C. Villarreal, to the Tulsa Metropolitan Area Planning Commission. It covers two-thirds of the cost; the balance will be provided by the City of Tulsa.

"I cannot stress too strongly the need to apply new ideas and concepts to public transit planning, if we are to avoid massive traffic congestion and an intolerably low degree of mobility in urban areas across the nation," Secretary Volpe said when making the announcement.

Public bus transportation is provided in Tulsa by the Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority. The public agency took over the operation in 1968 when financial losses caused the former private operator to threaten to abandon service.

The study will try to determine equipment and service levels needed to adequately serve through 1974 the Tulsa area's rapidly growing and spreading population.

A regional center for finance and aircraft and computer related industries, the Tulsa metropolitan area had a population of 369,000 in 1968, an increase of almost 100,000 over 1960. An additional increase of 200,000 is projected for the period through 1985.

The study will include also preliminary steps toward the formulation of a transit development program for the period 1974 to 1990.

Project No. OKLA-T9-1

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