

C I T Y O F C A M B R I D G E
M A S S A C H U S E T T S

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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY P.M., FEBRUARY 25, 1971RELEASE # 1/FE/42

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON - The following is the text of a joint announcement by Transportation Secretary John A. Volpe and Governor Francis W. Sargent issued in Washington as Secretary Volpe announced approval of the Governor's balanced transportation program for the metropolitan Boston area:

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe and Governor Francis W. Sargent of Massachusetts, today announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation has approved a \$3.5 million grant to resolve the transportation problems of the Boston metropolitan area.

The study, which will extend over 18 months, was first proposed by Governor Sargent's Transportation Task Force in February 1970 in response to Secretary Volpe's call for new directions and initiatives in transportation planning. Secretary Volpe's concern had been reflected in the creation of a new Office of Environment and Urban Systems to resolve the transportation impasse that had been occurring in major metropolitan areas of the United States.

"The proposed study is one of the most comprehensive ever submitted to the Department of Transportation," Secretary Volpe said. "All forms of transportation and their relation to community development will be considered by the study. Today's urban society must be served by transportation which satisfies social, political, and environmental needs as well as purely transportation goals and objectives.

"President Nixon and I are committed to encouraging decision-making at the local and state levels, which this study represents. We believe that the Boston region's development program will serve as an excellent example of how those who are affected by serious transportation problems can and should be involved in making the basic choices regarding their communities.

"I believe this study to be of national importance, particularly as our Nation moves to create new transportation programs for metropolitan areas now demanding innovation and change in transportation practice. The Governor and citizens of Massachusetts are to be commended for their imaginative and creative approach to the solution of these very pressing problems."

The Secretary indicated that the study will insure that the transportation planning process will be used as a positive tool for improving the quality of life in the metropolitan Boston area.

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"Protecting the environment is not merely the preservation of parks and open spaces," the Secretary said. "It basically concerns the manner in which we live and the role that transportation fulfills in achieving our common goals."

The Secretary stated that the Nixon Administration has full confidence in the capacity of citizens to make decision with responsible leadership that are compatible with their goals and assumptions. "This study is illustrative of what revenue sharing might accomplish. I believe this program will serve as an important step toward equitable, compatible and balanced transportation in the Boston area. Hopefully, it will become a model for all of urban America."

The study will consider a number of major transportation controversies in the Boston area. These will be reviewed in concert, with careful attention to their interrelationships and to their effect upon the full range of metropolitan values, such as environment, housing, employment, and the economy.

The 18-month study will focus on the proposed construction of a number of new limited access expressways and rapid transit extensions of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority. In particular, the study will review the Inner Belt (I-695), the Southwest Expressway (I-95 South), the Southwest rapid transit extension, the Route 2 extension from Alewife to the Inner Belt, the Harvard-Alewife transit extension, and relocated I-95, including the Third Harbor Tunnel.

Governor Sargent has indicated that a decision on Boston's Southwest Expressway will be made within 12 months.

The Governor made the following comments in response to the announcement:

"Secretary Volpe's decision today to grant \$3.5 million to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to develop a balanced transportation system for the Boston metropolitan region is a milestone for the Nation and our State.

"We are deeply grateful to the Secretary for his decision and confidence in our program for the metropolitan region. Two years ago, he assumed one of the most difficult jobs in Washington to lead the Nation in changing its transportation priorities and programs to meet the challenges of the seventies. His decision today is still further evidence that we can develop new ideas and approaches to the transportation problems that confront our metropolitan areas. The significance of the Secretary's decision to Massachusetts and other states for which it will serve as a model is threefold.

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"First, this study and development program represents an effort to bring the transportation decision-making process as close as possible to the local level and to elevate the role of citizen participation in the planning process to a significant and meaningful level.

"Second, it is far-reaching in its effort to first evaluate and weigh the environmental and community considerations and impacts before deciding whether to build a transportation facility rather than deciding to build a facility and then considering environmental impacts.

"Third, it represents an effort to develop a new Federal/State relationship in transportation planning which encourages state initiative and Federal flexibility in developing transportation programs for urban areas.

"This is an historic decision. We now move forward."



FRANCIS W. SARGENT
GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

March 8, 1971

Dear Mr. Healy:

Thank you for your letter supporting my Transportation Study Design for the Metropolitan Boston Region. I am enclosing a copy of the announcement of the approval of the Study Design made by Secretary Volpe and myself in Washington, D.C., on February 25, 1971.

I appreciate your taking the time to write, and your support of my efforts is greatly appreciated.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francis W. Sargent", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr. Paul E. Healy, Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

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Communication from Gov. Francis W. Sargent, acknowledging order supporting his Transportation Study Design and enclosing copy of the announcement of the approval of the Study Design made by Secretary Volpe and Gov. Sargent in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 25, 1971

March 22, 1971

in City Council March 22, 1971

PLACED ON FILE

Paul E. Healy
City Clerk