The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “11/26/74 - Signing of Mass Transportation Assistance Act” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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SIGNING OF MASS TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE ACT

Nov. 26, 1974

THIS MARKS A VITAL LONG-TERM MAJOR FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO MASS TRANSPORTATION.
THIS LEGISLATION REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE IN THE BEST SENSE OF THE TERM. ALTHOUGH DIFFERENT POSITIONS WERE SET FORTH IN THE BEGINNING -- THE VIEWS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, THE CONGRESS, GOVERNORS, MAYORS AND OTHERS -- WE WERE ABLE TO RECONCILE OUR DIFFERENCES AND DEVELOP LEGISLATION TO MEET OUR MOST URGENT NEEDS IN MASS TRANSPORTATION AT A COST WHICH IS NOT INFLATIONARY.
THIS LEGISLATION IS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST EXCESSIVE USE OF PETROLEUM, IN OUR ECONOMIC BATTLE, AND IN OUR EFFORTS TO CURB URBAN POLLUTION AND REDUCE CONGESTION.

IT ASSURES THAT 11.8 BILLION DOLLARS IN FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HELP STATES AND CITIES MEET TRANSIT NEEDS FOR THE REST OF THE DECADE.
THIS ASSURANCE OF STEADY AND PREDICTABLE SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC
TRANSIT -- FOR THE FIRST TIME -- WILL ENABLE LOCALITIES TO
PLAN INTELLIGENTLY FOR THEIR LONG-TERM NEEDS. ALSO, FOR THE
FIRST TIME, THIS LEGISLATION WILL PERMIT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
TO PROVIDE LIMITED ASSISTANCE TOWARD THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF
TRANSIT SYSTEMS. PROVISIONS OF THE BILL WILL MINIMIZE
POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH DEFICITS.

THE ACT CONTAINS FUNDS -- AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME --
WHICH CAN BE USED FOR RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.
MANY WORKED HARD TO DEVELOP THIS LEGISLATION AND I

AM PLEASED SOME OF YOU COULD BE HERE TODAY -- SECRETARY BRINEGAR,

FRANK HERRINGER, JOHN TOWER, BETE WILLIAMS, JOE MINISH,

BILL WIDNALL, GARY BROWN, JIM DELANEY AND JOHN ANDERSON --

DESERVE SPECIAL MENTION. SO DO MANY MAYORS WHO MADE

NUMEROUS JOURNEYS TO WASHINGTON.
I AM ENCOURAGING HERE AND NOW THE USE -- THE EXCESSIVE USE -- OF CERTAIN ENERGY. THAT IS THE KIND OF ENERGY EXPENDED TO ENACT THIS LEGISLATION BY THE CONGRESS AND BY ITS SUPPORTERS AROUND THE COUNTRY. LET US PUT MORE AND MORE OF THIS PERSONAL ENERGY INTO THE EFFECTIVE SOLUTION OF THE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS FACING THE NATION TODAY. WE SURELY WILL FIND SOLUTIONS -- AND AT A PRICE THAT IS RIGHT!

IT IS WITH GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE THAT I SIGN THE NATIONAL MASS TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974.

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