



CF-NRN

THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

EXECUTIVE

4A4
H5
4H25
HM2-3

February 6, 1970

AK

3

Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan
Counselor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Pat:

You may recall my recently announced policy that approval would be withheld for any Federal-aid Highway construction project where replacement housing was not available and built. Since that time, I have expanded the policy making it applicable to all Department of Transportation construction projects in addition to all Federally-assisted construction where the Department participates.

Each year, Department of Transportation projects displace 70,000 persons, 50,000 by Federal highway projects alone, so you can understand the effect this policy will have.

I have also directed that all replacement housing must be "fair housing". Housing that is not available to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin as required by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 will not be considered in determining the availability of replacement housing. A written assurance that fair and adequate replacement housing will be provided for (built if necessary) is required before initial approval or endorsement of any project. Actual construction will be authorized only upon verification that the housing is in place and has been made available to all affected persons.

This policy will be announced publicly in a few days and I am taking this opportunity of providing you with an advance text because of your interest in assuring adequate and fair housing for all our citizens.

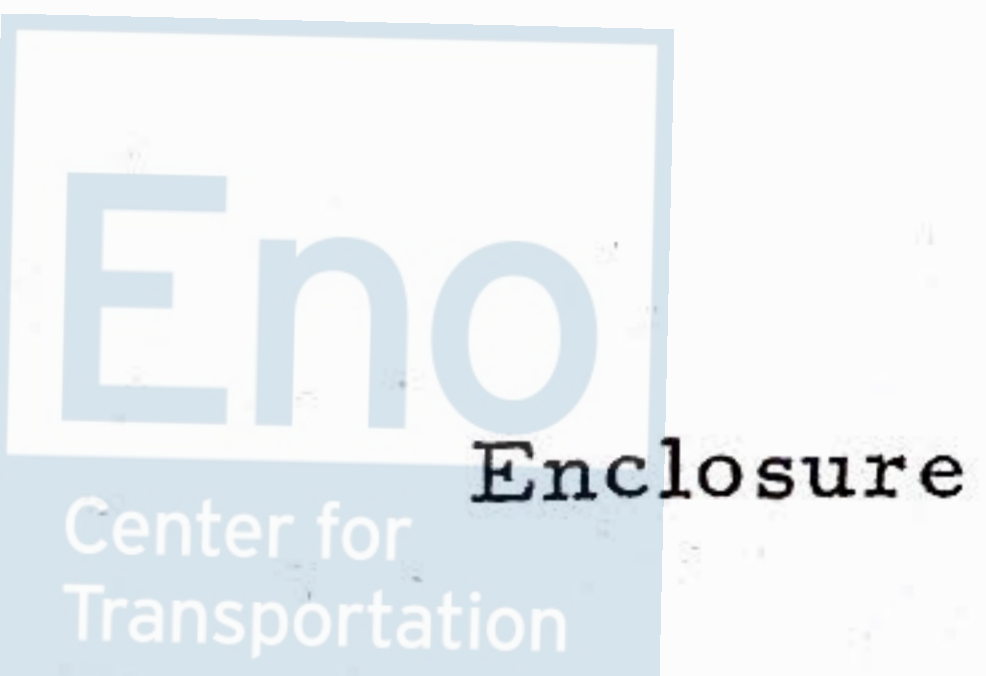
It is my sincere hope that these actions will contribute to our efforts in reducing the economic hardship on private citizens as a result of construction activity.

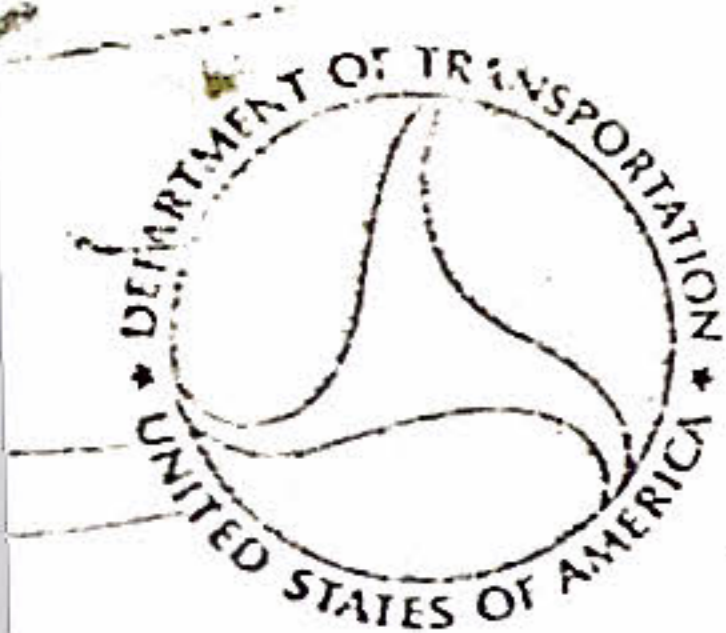
Sincerely,

John A. Volpe

RECEIVED
APR 13 1970
CENTRAL FILE

Confirming talk to you
JAV





DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

ADVANCE COPY

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today directed all units of the Department of Transportation to provide in advance for fair replacement housing for families displaced by federal and federally-assisted construction.

"Projects of the Department of Transportation will not be approved if they involve the dislocation of people -- black or white -- unless and until adequate replacement has already been provided for and built," Secretary Volpe said.

"It is my policy and the policy of the Administration that we shall do everything we can, in each individual case, to guarantee that the building of highways, airports, transit systems and so forth will cause the least disruption of human and natural resources. It is my sincere hope that this action by the Department will help make fair housing a reality in this nation and also contribute to our efforts in reducing the economic hardship on private citizens as a result of construction activity," the Secretary said.

"Each year, Department projects, including those federally-assisted, displace 70,000 persons -- some 50,000 by federal highway construction alone.

"I consider the new policy so important that I am approving procedures at this time so that you can make the necessary changes and place them into effect without delay."

Secretary Volpe outlined in a memorandum to the Administrators of the operating administrations the three principal points called for in the new Replacement Housing Policy of the Department of Transportation.

1. Specific written assurance that adequate replacement housing will be available (built, if necessary) before the initial approval or endorsement of any project.
2. Construction will be authorized only upon verification that replacement housing is in place and has been made available to all affected persons.



3. All replacement housing must be fair housing --- open to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. This is in addition to the requirement that replacement housing must be offered all affected persons regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The new policy directive went to the Administrators of the Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, Urban Mass Transportation Administration and the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

#####