

Mass Transit



HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR • WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Federal Housing Administration
Public Housing Administration
Federal National Mortgage Association
Community Facilities Administration
Urban Renewal Administration

MAY 25 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LEE WHITE

The letter concerning mass transportation which you recently furnished to the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency recommended the enactment of certain legislation on this subject. Attached is a draft of statutory language to carry out this recommendation in your letter.

Milton P. Sener

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General Counsel

Attachment



Title _____ -- Urban Mass
Transportation Assistance^{1/}

Findings and Purpose

Sec. ___01. (a) The Congress hereby finds that the greater part of the Nation's population, wealth, and defense productivity is located in our rapidly expanding metropolitan and other urban areas, many of which are interstate in character, and that such areas are increasingly suffering from traffic congestion and inadequate transportation service, which impair the social welfare and economic efficiency of the areas and reduce the effectiveness of Federally-aided programs such as those for highways, urban renewal, and housing. The Congress further finds that Federal financial assistance for effective mass transportation systems is essential to the solution of these urban transportation problems, and that such systems can be developed only in communities with sound and comprehensive area - wide transportation plans and with financing, developmental, operating, and regulatory authority adequate to carry out such plans.

(b) It is the purpose of this title to --

(1) provide for a prompt report and recommendations to the Congress as to the proper role of Federal financial assistance in the provision of effective mass transportation systems; and

(2) provide increased assistance to State and local governments in the development and evaluation of effective mass transportation plans and methods.

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Report and Recommendations

Sec. __02. The Housing and Home Finance Administrator is directed to submit to the Congress, no later than January 31, 1962, his report and recommendations as to the appropriate form and magnitude of Federal financial assistance for urban mass transportation, the proper extent of local cost sharing, and the conditions and requirements to be met by local communities to assure the most effective use of such assistance.

Planning Grants

Sec. __03. Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954 is amended by -
(1) striking out the matter preceding paragraph (1) in the subsection (a) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"SEC. 701. (a) In order to assist State and local governments in solving planning problems resulting from the increasing concentration of population in metropolitan and other urban areas, including smaller communities; to facilitate comprehensive planning for urban development on a continuing basis by such governments, including the coordination of transportation systems; and to encourage such governments to establish and improve planning staffs, the Administrator is authorized to make planning grants --";

(2) adding the following paragraph at the end of subsection (a):

"Planning which may be assisted under this section includes any planning to carry out the purpose of title ___ of the Housing Act of 1961."; and (3) inserting after "public facilities" in clause (1) of subsection (d) ", including transportation facilities."

Demonstration Grants and Technical Assistance

Sec. ___04. (a) The Housing and Home Finance Administrator may make grants for demonstration projects which he determines would assist in carrying out the purpose of this title, including but not limited to the development of data and information of general applicability on the reduction of urban transportation needs, the improvement of mass transportation service, and the contribution of such service toward meeting total urban transportation needs at minimum cost. Such grants shall not exceed two-thirds of the estimated cost of the project for which the grant is made and shall be subject to such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Administrator.

(b) To assist in carrying out the purpose of this title the Administrator may also provide technical assistance to State and local public bodies and undertake such studies and publish such information, either directly or by contract, as he shall determine to be desirable.

(c) Nothing contained in this section shall limit the authority of the Administrator under any other provision of law. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$10,000,000 to carry out the purposes of this section, and any amounts so appropriated shall remain available until expended.

NOTE 1/

This has been prepared in the form of a title to be inserted in the Housing Bill of 1961. It could, of course, also be easily converted to a separate bill.

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