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June 22, 1973

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HAS TODAY INFORMED ME THAT TOPEKA'S REQUEST FOR MASS TRANSIT FUNDS HAS BEEN APPROVED. THE FUNDING PACKAGE TOTALS APPROXIMATELY \$850,000 -- SOME \$555,000 OF WHICH WILL BE FEDERAL MONEY.

THESE FUNDS WILL ENABLE THE TOPEKA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE 15 NEW 45-PASSENGER, AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES AND TO ACQUIRE THE ASSETS OF THE EXISTING TOPEKA TRANSPORTATION COMPANY. THE 15 NEW BUSES, ALONG WITH 11 TO BE KEPT FROM THE OLD SYSTEM, WILL BE ADEQUATE TO IMPROVE THE FREQUENCY OF SERVICE ON THE EXISTING ROUTES AND AT THE SAME TIME PERMIT THE EXPANSION OF BUS SERVICE TO NEW PARTS OF THE CITY. THREE ENTIRELY NEW ROUTES ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE EXPANDED SYSTEM.

THIS NEW SYSTEM WILL INSURE BETTER MASS TRANSIT FOR ALL TOPEKANS. AN IMPORTANT FEATURE ON THE NEW BUSES IS SPECIAL EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL MAKE THEM MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE CITY'S ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED. ADDITIONAL ROUTES WILL ALSO GIVE THESE NEEDY CITIZENS GREATER ACCESS TO THE CITY'S MEDICAL SERVICE AND SHOPPING AREAS.

15 new

Topeka Bus - 2

I THINK MANY TOPEKANS, ESPECIALLY METROPOLITAN TRANSIT  
AND CITY OFFICIALS, DESERVE A LOT OF CREDIT FOR THEIR EXCELLENT  
WORK ON THIS PROJECT. BECAUSE OF THEIR EFFORTS IN COOPERATION  
WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS, TOPEKA HAS WON APPROVAL OF ITS GRANT  
APPLICATION IN ABOUT HALF THE TIME NORMALLY REQUIRED.

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