

Aid on Transit Seen by Volpe

Atlanta in 'Excellent Position' For Federal Funds, He Says

By BILL COLLINS

The U.S. secretary of transportation says Atlanta will be in "an excellent position" to get two-thirds of the money for a rapid transit system from the federal government.

John Volpe, former governor of Massachusetts and one of the front-runners for the vice presidential nod at the 1968 Republican presidential convention was in Atlanta Saturday night to address the 11th annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislative Leaders.



John Volpe

The secretary, at a news conference before his speech, explained the Nixon administration's \$10 billion, 12-year public transportation bill and said Atlanta "may get the jump on other cities" for funds under the bill, if the measure is approved by Congress.

He said the bill would authorize him to make \$3.1 billion available immediately upon its being signed into law. The federal money would be spent over five years.

He also said Atlanta would be "in an excellent position" to get a federal grant totaling two-thirds of the cost of a rapid transit system because of the planning it has done and also because it is one of five "center cities."

VOLPE POINTED OUT, however, that under the proposed bill no one state could get more than 12½ per cent of the total appropriation.

He also told newsmen the Vietnam war is not draining funds he has requested for his department and added, "The administration and the director of the Bureau of the Budget have approved the two transportation bills I have requested."

Volpe says the two measures he would like to see enacted include the \$10.1-billion public transportation bill and the airport-airways bill which would provide \$2.5 billion for air-traffic control and \$2.5 billion for construction of new airports and expansion of existing facilities.

He said the administration is concerned about in-flight crashes and feels the airport-airways bill would help diminish the possibility of future collisions.

With \$2.5 billion of the airport-airways bill, Volpe explained, the federal government would work towards development of a fully automated system of air-traffic control system.

"THE OTHER \$2.5 billion would be used to help build 900 airports and expand 2,700 airfields around the country," Volpe said.

The secretary said the Nixon administration hopes to restrict the number of incoming flights at five of the nation's busiest airports and to better control the flights at 22 other airports, including Atlanta's.

In his remarks to the 800 legislative leaders attending the four-day conference, Volpe talked about the need for federal-state-local government coop-

eration in solving the nation's problems.

"Much of the glamour, power and prestige that once surrounded state Capitols shifted to Washington in the past 25 years," he said.

"And when the power went to Washington, many of the talented young men went also. Washington has been the mecca for young Americans who wanted to dedicate their lives to fulfillment of the American dream," he added.

VOLPE SAID there has been a trend towards reversing the growing dependence on the federal government in the past few years.

"This new trend first became strongly evident under President Johnson," he added.

"But President Nixon has gone a step further. He has proposed a program of revenue sharing between the states and Washington. And, although it is a modest beginning, it will be stepped up," Volpe said.