

NEW JERSEY COMMITTEE

Regional Plan Association



... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New Jersey-New York-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

60 PARK PLACE • SUITE 1603 • NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102 • TELEPHONE: (201) 623-1133

NEWS RELEASE

Chairman
William S. Woodside
Chairman
American Can Company

Chairman
New Jersey Committee
Robert V. Van Fossan
Chairman
Mutual Benefit Life
Insurance Company

For further information:

No. 1461
January 24, 1983

Kathleen W. Rae
(201) 623-1133 (office)
(201) 447-5922 (home)

FOR RELEASE: a.m. Monday, January 31, 1983

REGIONAL PLAN REPORT SAYS PUBLIC TRANSIT IS KEY TO IMPROVING NEW JERSEY'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM; OFFERS PLANNING, MANAGEMENT, FISCAL SUGGESTIONS

Regional Plan Association today released a report which analyzes New Jersey's transportation problems and offers recommendations to help make the State's transportation network second to none.

The Association's New Jersey Committee met with New Jersey Transportation Commissioner John Sheridan on January 21 to discuss the report's recommendations. Members of the Committee will present the report's findings to New Jersey legislators on February 18.

The report, entitled "Transportation in New Jersey: the Road to Renewal," was researched and written by Regional Plan staff, principally James L. Wunsch. Publication was funded by the Florence and John Schumann Foundation. It was initiated by Regional Plan Association's New Jersey Committee, comprised of 30 prominent business and civic leaders who live and work in the State. The Committee is chaired by

Robert V. Van Fossan, Chairman of Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, Newark. Regional Plan's New Jersey Committee has been studying the State's transportation system since the Association re-established the Committee nearly two years ago. Regional Plan Association is the country's oldest private regional planning organization.

A copy of the report is attached. Additional copies are available from the New Jersey Committee in Newark (see letterhead, page one) or from Regional Plan Association, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10018, (212) 398-1140.

"New Jersey has redirected its transportation priorities from expansion to rehabilitation of the existing system," notes New Jersey Committee Chairman Robert V. Van Fossan. "At present, however, the public transit side of the system is underutilized and has the potential for absorbing a far greater share of peak demand. Regional Plan's economic projections suggest that a strong demand for new offices in northern New Jersey between now and 1990 can be accommodated by the existing capacity of the State's public transit system--if those new offices are located in centers, within reach of the bus and rail lines.

"Other urban areas with similar problems of traffic congestion and roadway deterioration, such as Houston, face much greater costs than New Jersey because they have to build new public transit facilities from scratch. With proper rehabilitation, improved management and some judicious control over the location of new development, New Jersey's existing transportation system can be second to none."

#####

mbs/Attachment