

In connection with the Subcommittee on Roads' consideration of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1968 the American Transit Association wishes to take this opportunity to give its wholehearted support to Section 14 of H.R. 17134, the section which proposes fringe parking facilities.

Section 14 of the bill would authorize Federal assistance for fringe parking facilities in urban areas with a population of more than fifty thousand. The land used for the facilities must be part of, or adjacent to, the right-of-way of a Federal-Aid highway. The section further requires that the facility be integrated with existing or planned mass transportation facilities. The section sets Federal participation at 75%, such funds to be provided from the Highway Trust Fund. Parking fees may be charged for the use of the facilities, however, the rate cannot be in excess of that required for maintenance and operation.

Today our urban centers are confronted with many problems but none is more serious than that of congestion—population congestion, housing congestion, and traffic congestion.

It is our belief that the fringe parking principle, as presented in H.R. 17134, if enacted will significantly alleviate the traffic and parking congestion which is now so commonplace in the central business districts of our nation's major cities. In turn, congestion in population and housing will also be benefited by allowing better utilization of limited available downtown space.

In its present form, H.R. 17134 would require that all fringe parking facilities be integrated with existing or planned mass transportation facilities. Such a requirement recognizes and helps implement the underlying philosophy behind such an undertaking. Namely, that for such a program as this to be successful the parking facilities must be located *away* from the downtown area. To do otherwise would simply provide supplemental downtown parking and thereby cause more, not less, congestion on the approaches leading to the downtown area.

It is, therefore, respectfully requested that this Subcommittee give favorable consideration and approval to the Fringe Parking Section of H.R. 17134, which we feel is an important step toward relieving a major concern facing our cities.

It would be appreciated if this statement would be made a part of the printed record.