

skills associated with freeway travel. The opportunity for economic growth is accompanied by responsibility on the part of local government. Hodge-podge growth creates hodge-podge communities. Proper exercise of planning and zoning powers on the part of local government can maintain orderly beauty along this corridor while your economy grows. Keep these counties good places in which to live and play at the same time that you provide new jobs for your citizens.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the State Roads Commission, its engineers, contractors, inspectors, right-of-way agents and all who contributed so much time and effort to see that the Beltway, the largest public works project in the history of the Washington suburban region, was delivered on schedule. To the Federal Bureau of Public Roads, I would express my personal thanks and the official gratitude of the people of Maryland, for the very important role the federal government played in this mammoth and exacting job. I could not refer to the Bureau of Public Roads without congratulating Mr. Whitton and his able staff on the progress our nation is making on the vast interstate system of which this Beltway is a part. In addition, I am delighted to see that Maryland is upholding its end of this federal-state partnership in work on the interstate system. With the opening of the Beltway, Maryland now has 70 per cent of its interstate mileage under traffic, placing it sixth in the nation. We are proud of our record, Mr. Whitton, and I can assure you here today that we will continue to cooperate with you and your fine field offices to keep Maryland's interstate mileage on the move.

The Maryland National-Capital Park and Planning Commission deserves great credit today. The foresight of its planning operation and the coordination between its staff and the State Roads Commission is an example of what can be done with a good relationship between local and State governments. Also, the job the County Council of Montgomery County and the Prince George's County Commissioners have done with regard to the Beltway has been immense. All of us, federal, State, and county government, plus private business and individuals, now face new challenges, new responsibilities in making wise and proper use of this road of opportunity.