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## Volpe Ruling Due In January On I-40

From The Commercial Appeal  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3. — Transportation Secretary John A. Volpe should be in a position to make a decision on the Overton Park Expressway route in Memphis around the first of the year, a Federal Highway Administration spokesman said Friday.

The spokesman said all the necessary papers and documents suggested by the new environmental laws, including a transcript of the Memphis hearing and a final environmental impact statement, should be before Volpe by around Jan. 1.

Volpe is expected to act quickly once all of the preparations for his decision are completed.

A final draft of the environmental impact statement is now being prepared and will include about 200 pages summarizing both responses to a preliminary draft and the Memphis hearings.

All of the agencies whose views were solicited have not yet responded but if and when they do their statements will be incorporated, too. One that hasn't responded is the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

After Volpe's decision, the final draft of the environmental impact statement will have to lay before the President's Council on Environmental Quality for 30 days before the road-builders can resume work in Memphis.

OPF 20-36

CA.

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