

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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D HAYDEN: RURAL INTER-CITY BUS PLAN TO BE DEVELOPED

Washington, D.C. -- SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KS) AND GOVERNOR MIKE HAYDEN (R-KS) ANNOUNCED TODAY A COOPERATIVE FEDERAL-STATE-PRIVATE EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE GROWING RURAL INTER-CITY BUS ABANDONMENT PROBLEM IN KANSAS. THE TWO KANSAS LAWMAKERS ANNOUNCED TODAY A \$78,000 URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION GRANT THAT WILL BE USED TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM PLAN AND STRATEGY TO REVIVE RURAL INTER-CITY BUS SERVICE.

"UMTA OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH US TO HELP FIND A SOLUTION TO THE LACK OF AVAILABILITY OF BUS SERVICE IN RURAL KANSAS," SAID SENATOR DOLE. "ABANDONMENTS ARE NOT THE ANSWER. WE NEED TO FIND WAYS TO STIMULATE PRIVATE CARRIERS TO DEVELOP PROFITABLE ROUTES IN THE RURAL MARKET THAT EXISTS."

"I AM PLEASED THAT FEDERAL, STATE AND PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS ARE SHOWING A WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP A WORKING PLAN THAT WILL EVENTUALLY RESULT IN MORE RURAL KANSANS FINDING ACCESSIBLE BUS TRANSPORTATION," SAID GOVERNOR HAYDEN WHO IS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE.

THE GRANT, APPROVED THROUGH THE RURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, WILL PROVIDE \$78,101 FOR RURAL TRANSIT RESEARCH, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING. UMTA OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH SENATOR DOLE AND GOVERNOR HAYDEN DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE RURAL INTER-CITY TRANSIT INITIATIVE THAT FULLY INCORPORATES MARKET PRINCIPALS.

"WE AREN'T LOOKING FOR A HANDOUT," SAID SENATOR DOLE. "WE BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE KANSAS CARRIERS OUT THERE WHO WILL EXPAND INTO A PROFITABLE RURAL INTER-CITY MARKET WITH THE RIGHT INCENTIVE."

GOVERNOR HAYDEN HAS DIRECTED KANSAS SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION HORACE EDWARDS TO WORK WITH GREYHOUND LINES, INC. OFFICIALS TO DEVELOP THE PLAN. GREYHOUND OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO HELP DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE RURAL INTER-CITY FEEDER SYSTEM THAT WILL PROVIDE RURAL SERVICE TO THEIR MAIN INTERSTATE LINES. UMTA OFFICIALS WILL THEN WORK WITH THE GOVERNOR AND SENATOR DOLE WITH REGARD TO FUTURE FUNDING OPTIONS.

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