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NEWS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, July 21, 1994 Contact: Clarkson Hine (202) 224-5358

## DOLE PROPOSAL FOR JOHNSON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROJECT APPROVED BY SENATE

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Senate today approved Kansas Senator Bob Dole's request to provide a \$1.28 million grant to help Johnson County purchase buses for public transportation and vans accessible to the elderly and disabled citizens. This grant will help to complete a three-phase program to purchase a bus fleet and replace outmoded special service transportation vehicles. The project was included in the 1995 Transportation Bill approved by the Senate today. The measure will now go to a joint House/Senate conference committee to work out differences with legislation passed by the House.

"Currently, Johnson County leases vehicles from a service provider. This funding, upon final approval, will allow for the purchase of four large buses for its transportation system. The County may realize a 20 percent savings by owning a bus fleet, and this is good news for local residents," said Dole.

"The demand for special service transportation in Johnson County has increased tremendously. This grant will also allow for the purchase of approximately six 10-passenger wheelchair lift-equipped vans to meet the growing needs of the elderly and disabled in the area," Dole added.

The grant will also allow for the purchase of radios, spare parts, and maintenance training for the new large buses.