

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-6521

DOLE ANNOUNCES UNEXPECTED \$6.25 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS
TO HELP REBUILD AGING KANSAS CITY BRIDGE --
WEST KANSAS AVENUE BRIDGE HANDLES 9,000 VEHICLES PER DAY

KANSAS CITY -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced that \$6.25 million in federal funds has been made available to help rebuild a busy 71-year-old Kansas City bridge.

"I am delighted that these unexpected federal funds will be heading to Kansas," Dole said. "This bridge is an important link to Kansas and Missouri for thousands of commuters every day, but unfortunately it has become a nightmare for those who must travel over this dilapidated structure. The fact that this span has stood since 1912 and now handles 9,000 vehicles daily is testimony to the urgency of this reconstruction project."

According to the Kansas Republican, the federal Department of Transportation notified the Senator that several states had sent back to Washington an unpredicted surplus of federal funds for fiscal year 1983. Dole said that \$6.25 million of that surplus now belongs to Kansas for the K.C. bridge project.

The West Kansas Avenue Bridge connects Kansas Highway 132 to Kansas Avenue to 23rd Street on the Missouri side. The five-span steel truss structure crosses the Kansas River, and helps carry traffic to the stockyards and Kemper Arena.

The funds will help: 1) finish the reconstruction design; 2) complete right-of-way acquisition; and 3) begin construction.

Total cost of the project is an estimated \$29 million, with the state required to participate on an 80/20 funding basis until completion (80% = federal, 20% state). The next stage of funding won't be necessary until late 1984, or early 1985.