

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE: 65-MPH LAW SHOULD COVER TURNPIKE, OTHER 4-LANE HIGHWAYS

Washington, D.C. -- The new 65-miles per hour speed limit for rural interstate highways should apply to the Kansas Turnpike and other controlled four-lane highways, according to Senator Bob Dole (R-KS).

"If a highway has four lanes like an interstate, if access to it is controlled like an interstate, and if it's in a rural part of the state," said Sen. Dole, "then the 65 speed limit should be an option for Kansas officials to have in establishing reasonable speed limits."

Dole said he will cosponsor legislation to give states the right to post the higher speed limit on rural stretches of controlled-access four-lane highways even though it may not be a part of the federal interstate system of highways.

Said Sen. Dole, "In Kansas, we have several different stretches of highways that are no different - in design, construction or purpose - from interstate highways, except they're not a part of the federal interstate system. The Kansas Turnpike is an obvious example of a highway that was designed to accommodate safe driving at 65-miles per hour. I don't believe turnpike motorists should be discriminated against just because their four-lane, controlled access highway isn't an interstate."

Dole said Kansas highways that likely could be affected by the legislation include 48 miles on the turnpike between Emporia and Topeka, 15 miles on U.S. 81 north of Salina, 19 miles on U.S. 69 near Kansas City, 23 miles on U.S. 54 between Kingman and Goddard, and 19 miles on K-10 between Lawrence and Olathe.

Last April legislation was passed and signed into law which gives states the option to set speed limits up to 65-miles per hour only on rural stretches of the federal interstate highway system.