

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 27, 1991

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KANSAS HIGHWAY UPDATE

DOLE HIGHWAY PROJECTS GET BIG ADDITIONAL FUNDING BOOST:
HUTCHINSON BYPASS NOW FULLY FUNDED,
US-81 -- FOUR LANES ALL THE WAY TO NEBRASKA;
NATION'S INTERSTATE SYSTEM TO BE NAMED FOR EISENHOWER

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today announced that he has secured last-minute changes to the nation's six-year highway bill that will bring maximum funding levels to two major projects introduced by Dole -- the Hutchinson Bypass and widening US-81 north of Concordia. The bill won final Senate approval Wednesday afternoon, and headed to President Bush for his signature.

Dole had succeeded in winning \$24.4 million for the bypass Tuesday, along with \$7 million for US-81, but those totals were dramatically increased today. Dole's action will now result in the Hutchinson Bypass receiving a total of \$48.8 million, double the funding originally secured by Dole in the Senate/House conference committee, and the US-81 expansion will receive up to \$56.2 million to continue and, it is hoped, complete the widening of the highway to four lanes from Concordia all the way to the Nebraska border. Dole had originally secured \$7 million for the US-81 project.

Hutchinson Bypass

"This last-minute funding victory is a welcome one-two punch for the Hutchinson Bypass, and a shot in the arm for the local economy," Dole said. "By doubling the funding to the full amount of \$48.8 million, we'll be able to complete this important project. If you've been caught in the heavy truck traffic around Hutchinson, you know how important this bypass will be in providing a safer and quicker route past congestion in Hutch. Yesterday, I said the initial funding was a 'tremendous start' -- now it looks like a fantastic finish."

US-81 Extension

"When it comes to getting around rural Kansas, nothing beats a four-lane highway," Dole added. "Now that funding is in the bag for pushing US-81 all the way to Nebraska, Kansas can look forward to having its first four-lane, north-to-south highway; and right through the heart of the state, too. This is a project that has been at the top of everyone's wish list in north-central Kansas for many, many years. It also opens up huge opportunities in commerce and employment."

The additional funding comes from a one-time federal highway reimbursement to the state of Kansas in the final two years of the highway program. The \$73.6 million reimbursement is for Kansas' original contribution to construction of segments of the interstate system built without federal assistance. Dole's action reserves \$24.4 million of the reimbursement to complete the Hutchinson project, and the remaining \$56.2 million is available to complete the US-81 project.

Eisenhower Interstate System

Meanwhile, Dole announced that the final bill will honor President Dwight Eisenhower of Abilene by naming the nation's entire interstate system after the nation's 34th President and World War II hero. Dole said a federal study will develop a fitting emblem honoring the "Dwight David Eisenhower Interstate System and Defense Highways" to be affixed to all interstate highway signs.

"No doubt about it, Ike is the father of America's interstate highway system, and thanks to this fitting tribute, future generations of American travellers will recognize the historic contributions of this great Kansan, our Man from Abilene," Dole said.

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OP-ED: EMBARGOED FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL
VETERANS DAY, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11th

Veterans Day 1991: The First National Holiday
to Honor the Heroes of Desert Storm

by Senator Bob Dole

Today is a very special Veterans Day -- the first national salute to veterans since more than one-half million American soldiers went to war in the Persian Gulf. While the stunning success of Operation Desert Storm and the crushing defeat of Saddam Hussein's war machine no longer dominate the headlines, and even though the welcome home parades are over, we owe it to our men and women in uniform to honor their commitment and sacrifice.

From every corner of Kansas -- from Fort Riley to McConnell Air Force Base, from Fort Leavenworth to National Guard and Reserve units -- members of every military service answered the call to serve their nation and the principles we hold dear. These fine young servicemen and women boosted respect for the United States, and filled all Americans with pride in our Armed Forces. Thanks to our Desert Storm heroes, veterans of all wars -- especially our Vietnam veterans -- are enjoying newfound and much deserved respect.

The Supreme Sacrifice

But while we recognize the contributions of all of America's veterans, let's take a moment today to honor the memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice during the past year. Three hundred and eighty-four brave American men and women lost their lives in the liberation of Kuwait. Six of these magnificent young Americans were from Kansas -- Michael Daniels of Leavenworth; Marty Davis of Salina; William Grimm of Manhattan; Jeffery Middleton of Oxford; Gary Streeter of Fort Riley; and George Swartzendruber of Newton -- and still others were based in our state or once called Kansas their home. America must never forget the sacrifice of these heroes.

The Lessons of Desert Storm

We in Congress should also commit to learning the lessons of Operation Desert Storm, and doing everything we can to ensure that our men and women in uniform don't go into any future conflict without the tools they need to win.

Don't get me wrong -- the world is changing, and we do have to change with it. Happily, that does mean a smaller defense budget, and a smaller military force. But it doesn't mean a wholesale raid on the armed forces which are still charged with keeping us secure and free. And it certainly doesn't mean junking our high tech weapons, and our research and development of newer and better weapons, the dazzling weaponry that utterly demolished Saddam Hussein's vaunted military might. If Desert Storm taught us anything, it's that modern technology can not only win wars -- it can save American lives.

I believe all Kansans would agree with me that if we have to go to war again, somewhere, sometime -- and no one could have foreseen the Gulf War only months before -- we don't want one Kansan or one American to lose his or her life needlessly because of a reckless assault on our defense budget. Remember, we can and should cut our military budget, and we are doing it -- responsibly.

Let's also keep in mind the upheaval in the Soviet Union, still a country with a vast arsenal of nuclear weapons. Of course, we welcome any movement towards democracy, but with republics splintering and ethnic and political rivalries starting to boil, it would be dangerous indeed to say the nuclear threat from this former superpower is over.

But today, the focus must be on our heroes of the battlefield. On this special holiday, I ask all Kansans to commit to remembering our brave Desert Storm heroes -- not just on their first Veterans Day, but on every Veterans Day to come.

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