

of

SENATOR JAMES B. PEARSON

Kansas

298

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRANSPORTATION FUNDS APPROVED

298

Washington, D.C., December 18, 1969 - Members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation today expressed satisfaction with Senate action approving transportation funds for programs of highway construction, safety, airport development and congestion relief at urban airports.

In a joint statement released today, Senators Pearson and Dole and Representatives Shriver, Mize, Winn, Skubitz and Sebelius said:

"Transportation is a matter of first priority in the growth of Kansas. We are pleased that appropriations in this field have been approved at levels allowing for at least some growth in fiscal 1970."

The Senate last night restored \$100 million to an appropriation for the federal highway trust fund, bringing the total to \$4.519 billion. This is \$364 million more than the 1969 level.

The Senate also approved a \$30.5 million appropriation for traffic and highway safety programs and \$4 million for railroad safety programs in the Department of Transportation. The total funds approved for the Department of Transportation were \$6.7 billion, an increase of \$.2 million over the House bill.

An increase of \$20 million was approved by the Senate for the Federal Aviation Administration's grant-in-aid program for airport development. A total of \$50 million was voted to bring these funds up to authorized levels for 1970.

A program of basic research to increase the capacity of urban airports was also approved at the 1970 funding level of \$7.2 million. Undertaken in the Office of Transportation Research and Development, this program aims at increasing the number of aircraft that can be handled by major urban airports.