

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

47

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WICHITA, KANS., Feb. 26 --- U.S. Senator Bob Dole and Representative Garner E. Shriver today announced in Wichita that all obstacles have been cleared for the construction of the Wichita segment of Federal-aid highway project I-35W.

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe informed Dole and Shriver this morning that \$12 million in "early money" will be made available immediately to the state as authorized by the Federal Highway Administration. Total funding for the project will be \$40 million.

Construction of the Wichita highway segment requires the use of lands from Wichita East High School, Willard Elementary School and McAdams Park. Approval of the project had been pending on the following DOT stipulation:

there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of such land, and such program includes all possible planning to minimize harm resulting from such use.

Final clearance to use the Wichita lands was announced today.

Planning has been in progress since 1946 for a major highway facility to connect the northern industrial area of Wichita with the residential section in the southern portion of the city. The routing for this north-south highway, which follows the Wichita Drainage Canal, was officially adopted by the city in 1955.