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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE MEETS WITH DOT OFFICIALS, OPTIMISTIC ON KC - DENVER AMTRAK ROUTE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole met today with Transportation Undersecretary John Burnam to discuss the proposed Kansas City to Denver Amtrak passenger route.

Dole said that he was optimistic, after the meeting, about the chances for the designation of the route as an experimental one. Each year, the Department of Transportation may designate certain routes as experimental ones, and authorize Amtrak to operate passenger service along the line for a period of two years to determine the feasibility of continuing the service on a permanent basis.

"The Kansas City - Denver route, because it links two large and growing metropolitan areas, has good potential for growth in ridership," Dole said. "I think DOT recognizes this and I am hopeful the Secretary will agree this justifies its designation as an experimental line. I will continue to work with DOT on this matter and await their final decision later in the Spring."

Dole has already received a feasibility report, done by Amtrak, on the proposed route and expects later this month to have the results of an on-site track inspection study.