

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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ARMY CORPS TO PAY RAIL RELOCATION COSTS AT GREAT BEND

Washington, DC -- The Army Corps of Engineers has reversed itself and will pick up the tab for relocating railroad tracks at Great Bend as a part of that community's new flood control program, according to Senator Bob Dole (R-KS).

Through an oversight in the legislative process, the city of Great Bend had been left with the \$5 million cost of moving the railroad tracks - a cost the city had not been anticipating.

Sen. Dole had urged Army Assistant Secretary Robert K. Dawson to reconsider. "This oversight, if not corrected, would have had a severe impact on the Great Bend flood control project. The \$5 million unexpected additional cost is beyond the city's financial reach. And it was within Sec. Dawson's authority to impose the traditional exception to the general rule" of railroad relocation costs, Dole said.

In announcing the latest decision, Sen. Dole said, "If anyone looked at this snafu in a practical way, it was easy to see that the only reasonable thing to do would be to grant the exception. That was Congress' intent all along, and Sec. Dawson's decision recognizes that fact."

Both Senator Nancy Kassebaum and Congressman Pat Roberts expressed optimism the project could move ahead now. Said Roberts, "My office has worked on this important project since the devastating flood of 1981. We have overcome a series of obstacles. I am pleased the Corps of Engineers has accepted our recommendation in this case. Hopefully the project can now go forward." Kassebaum said, "I'm pleased we were able to help clear up what would have been a very expensive problem for Great Bend. I hope the community's much-needed flood control program can go forward."