

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 11, 1989

CONTACT: SARA BELDEN
(202) 224-6521

DOLE - GREYHOUND - UMTA WORKING ON ABANDONMENT AGREEMENT

Washington, D.C. -- SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KS) ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE IS WORKING ON AN INTERIM AGREEMENT THROUGH GREYHOUND LINES, INC. THAT WILL PROVIDE BUS SERVICE TO THOSE TOWNS AFFECTED BY GREYHOUND'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED ABANDONMENT OF SERVICE. GREYHOUND, AT DOLE'S REQUEST, IS CONTACTING THREE RURAL TRANSIT SERVICES OPERATING IN THE AREA IN AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE SERVICE ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS.

DOLE HAS ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION SAMUEL SKINNER REGARDING FUNDING ALTERNATIVES THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE URBAN MASS TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (UMTA). THE STATE OF KANSAS HAS MADE APPLICATIONS WITH UMTA FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE SERVICE FOR THOSE THREE LINES. UMTA HAS INDICATED THAT \$100,000 IS AVAILABLE IN MATCHING MONEY TO ASSIST IN EVALUATION AND PLANNING OF THESE ALTERNATIVE SERVICES.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THOSE PERSONS WHO NEED TRANSPORTATION HAVE IT AVAILABLE," DOLE SAID. "ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO THESE RURAL AREAS AND I AM COMMITTED TO PRESERVING THESE NECESSARY SERVICES."

UMTA HAS INITIALLY INDICATED ITS DESIRE TO COOPERATE BY DETERMINING WHAT TYPE OF SERVICE IS NEEDED. WHILE RIDERSHIP IS LOW ON MANY OF THESE ROUTES, THERE ARE PERSONS WHO NEED TRANSPORTATION NOT NOW PROVIDED BY PRIVATE RURAL TRANSIT COMPANIES.

"IN THE SHORT-TERM, WE HOPE PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO CALL THESE TRANSIT COMPANIES WHEN THEY NEED RIDES. I AM STILL LOOKING FOR A LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO RURAL TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS ALONG THESE AFFECTED ROUTES."

IN JANUARY DOLE SECURED \$168,000 UNDER THE U.S DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S RURAL CONNECTION PROGRAM TO LEASE BUSES FOR RURAL SERVICE ALONG TWO ABANDONED ROUTES FOR THREE YEARS.

##