



U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

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SECRETARY DOLE PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO RELEASE INTERSTATE CONSTRUCTION FUNDS TO STATES

Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Hanford Dole has submitted proposed emergency legislation to Congress urging an immediate release of more than \$7 billion in Interstate construction and other funds which have not been distributed to the states due to a continuing Congressional impasse. The legislation, "The Emergency Highway and Transit Cost Estimates Approval Act of 1985," was submitted to Congress on Jan. 14, 1985, together with the Department of Transportation's latest Interstate Cost Estimate (ICE) report.

In a letter explaining the proposed bill to the Congressional leadership, Secretary Dole wrote, "More than \$7 billion in Interstate construction, Interstate substitution, and other highway funds, with the potential of providing more than 220,000 person-years of employment, is waiting to be released.

"Currently, 40 states are without sufficient Interstate funds to move forward with projects, and every state is being denied some federal-aid for much-needed transportation improvements. Because of the delay in release of funds, work is not being done to close gaps in the Interstate highway system."

Dole added, "Indeed, the entire 1985 construction season is now in jeopardy for many states, with serious safety, economic and convenience consequences to motorists."

Secretary Dole strongly urged that a clean bill be enacted by March 1, 1985, "to give the states time to advertise and award construction contracts in time for the summer construction season." Efforts to approve the ICE last year faltered when a Congressional conference committee could not resolve differences regarding the inclusion of highway projects.

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For the public's reference, DOT will maintain an up-to-date list of the names and phone numbers of all distributors of aviation economic orders and notices in Room 4107, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Copies of the list may be obtained in that room or by writing to the above address.

The new distribution system began operation on June 24, 1985.

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