

and they are going to pay, whether it is sales-income, property, parimutuel, all the sources that go into the General Fund, everybody contributes in some amount. The only issue is whether or not it should be taken out of the Highway Trust Fund as opposed to General Fund. The reason that we picked the General Fund, number one, would be not to establish a precedent of moving into the Trust Fund, but, secondly, and I think equally important, there is a unique one-time situation. It is true that we have discontinued the Operating Funds that only affected Lincoln and Omaha that had General Fund up until last session. It is true they are all losing federal funds. What is unique about this particular situation only affecting Metro is that there is a \$4 million grant, federal grant, that Metro qualifies for. It requires a 20 percent match or \$800,000 in which from that they will be able to replace half, the other half of their buses that are currently need to be replaced which they do. If that is done, in part they will be buying some smaller buses, and the other buses that will be replaced will be the larger buses but they are going to be more fuel efficient. So if this is done, what is really being accomplished is to enable the Metro system which serves a number of communities in the Omaha areas, not just Omaha, it is going to enable all of those areas to have a less cost for the operating of mass transit. In fact there is less cost, ensures the probability at least that they will not need to come back to the state for further financial operating cost because they will have greater efficiencies, both in the type of buses they will be running as well as the more efficient engines that they can be using, and that in the long run is going to be beneficial. It is not unusual. I can point out several places in the budget, historically as well as this year, where the state General Funds goes to a specific project in a community. The ones that we most frequently consider are those that are in relation to some proposal where a combination dam and recreation site...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...may be constructed somewhere in the state. Not only do we provide the General Fund money to assist with those under statute but we also provide start up money for the recreational facilities sometimes. So it is not unusual to select one area. In this particular instance, I believe it is unique. It is one time and that