

for the decline in receipts. And in the case of the state it's somewhat different because, contrary to what was said on the floor, the Legislature has absolute control on the budget of the Department of Roads. You said it, it's in 1251. It's at this year's level, adjusted only by the salary, the policy that was adopted. It's a flat budget, no increase. Many of you, I think, are aware that there are twenty some projects currently planned for the one year program spread out across the state that are not going to be done. They are going to be deferred at the level that we have appropriated. That pushes another number of delays of additional projects that were planned in the five year program as obviously those that are deferred this year are going to bump those in the five year program as well. So to argue that there is not a need for the additional funds, in lieu of the fact that you are having declining receipts, now...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR WARNER: ...and by the way sales tax on motor vehicles is also down, so the rationale for the additional half cent is nothing more than try and retain a level appropriation, a level revenue amount for the cities and counties. In the case of the state, by virtue of the variable tax as a matter of fact, you could make it up because a variable tax could go higher than it otherwise would need to go.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time us up.

SENATOR WARNER: The amount that would be returned is about \$5 million estimated, 5.2 million that would be raised by the additional half percent sales tax. Roughly 2.6 million of that would be to the state, 2.3 million to the cities and counties.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR WARNER: And that is approximately, but not quite, but it starts to make up the loss of revenue that all entities are experiencing because of the declining consumption. So there is ample, absolute justification in order just to hold the same level of appropriation.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up. Senator Vard Johnson, please. We are going to have to move along a little faster since we have six hours left and we should really be through with this by about ten or so. And if we are going to do this, we really must roll along. Senator Vard Johnson.