

money out of the trust fund to this issue. There's not money there to fund that, we can't fund it, unfortunately.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I'd rise to again oppose the adoption of the amendment. I want to touch on a couple of things. It's been said several times, but maybe one more time. The state adopted, this Legislature adopted a plan for the total road construction of this state for all the roads in the state system. And it was established in a way, and the funding was a very key part of it. But it was done in a way that the interstate in Omaha would be completed in ten years. Why? Because there was a desperate need for it. And I was one of the people who fought to have that happen. We then had an expressway system that was adopted. That was scheduled for a 15-year program to be completed. And the balance of the program was 20 years. The interstate in Omaha is exceedingly important. The last... I remember 83 percent of that traffic on that interstate is local traffic. And that's why it needed to be completed in ten years, because there was a tremendous disruption to that community. And the sooner it could be done, the sooner that disruption would end. But it also relied upon adequate funding. It's been repeatedly said you can take the money away from the Highway Trust Fund and increase the gas tax, that's exactly what you will do, or you delay the completion of that plan, it's just that simple. It's also the more you delay, the more the cost goes up, because there is always some inflationary cost, over time, that you have to meet. Then, of course, the important part is the cities and counties lose substantial funds, either they are unable to take care of their streets and roads, or they do it through property tax, less able to take care of their streets and roads. But the other thing that I keep wondering about, when LB 89 was passed I was on the Appropriations Committee, and I remember we very deliberately retained at least \$20 million that would be available for that or other legislation that the Legislature may decide. But we believed it would be for that, and it was done. I don't know what happened last year that the priority for that cut that was made, I don't know where the money went. It probably went for some other good cause, I don't question that. But apparently the priority for that 5 million was decided to be taken out of the funding of that program. Then the balance, of course, was put in the trailer bill. And the trailer bill was a concept that was initiated when I was on Appropriations Committee. And,