

Chairperson:	Deb Fischer
Committee:	Transportation and Telecommunications
Date of Hearing:	March 10, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The purpose of LB 334 is to prioritize the completion of the Nebraska Expressway System. Originally crafted in 1988, the Nebraska Expressway System was designed to connect larger cities in rural Nebraska to the Interstate system by 2003. Currently, 179 of the 600 originally-proposed miles of expressway remain unfinished.

The bill would define the expressway system in statute, designating the map entitled "Nebraska Expressway System" in the 2006 State Highway Needs Assessment as the state expressway system.

LB 334 would also add two additional factors to the list of factors that the Department of Roads must consider in prioritizing Nebraska's highway system needs: 1) "the ability of residents of cities of fifteen thousand inhabitants or more to access the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways through a completed expressway", and 2) "the impact of uncompleted portions of the expressway system on the economic development of cities along the expressway system."

Principal Introducer:

Senator Robert Giese