

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 407

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'm just going to...

SENATOR SCHROCK: But even...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...give you the num...

SENATOR SCHROCK: Can we afford to send the cities and counties more money for roads in the next couple of years also?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, that's the formula. But I want you...to give you the numbers. We have not...our modest...we have a road construction budget...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...that's increased fairly modestly. It's gone from \$308 million in '99-2000 to 316, to 325, to 329. And these next two years, our proposal is 338 both years. So it's flat. The next two years are the same. And that's up from \$329 million.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Well,...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: So we increased the road budget \$9 million.

SENATOR SCHROCK: I admit that doesn't seem too high. But what about the Department of Roads down there? Are they...have they done any streamlining? Have they taken any cuts?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, not per se, except, remember that they have increased operating costs, more snow,...I mean, all those kinds of things are...

SENATOR SCHROCK: Well, that's true with the...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...constantly going up. I...

SENATOR SCHROCK: That's true with Game and Parks, that's true with the Department of Natural Resources, that's true with DEQ. And they didn't get by unscathed. So I'm just bringing the