

Assistance fund and that of that money the first cut goes to those rural transportation systems that need the monies, and then finally the remainder goes to the public transportation systems in Omaha and Lincoln, that is those of the big urban centers, and so the issue was that if there are an increasing number of rural transportation programs, they'd take increasing amounts of the money leaving less and less and less available to Omaha and Lincoln. Now that was the understanding that I have. Now as I look over this bill, Senator Warner, it would seem as though what it is allowing is nonprofit organizations throughout the state, but most of which would be rural in nature, to be organized and to receive from this finite amount of money first crack at the dollars, meaning that the urban centers, the Omaha area and the Lincoln area, would have less money available to support two existing public transportation systems. Is that a correct analysis or not?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes, and as the bill now stands, that would be true. I understand there is an intention to have an A bill for an additional general fund appropriation at an estimate of what this would cost and that then would not subtract from the existing programs, but currently it is true that the rural areas have first call up to fifty percent of the money. About fifteen percent of it is going for the rural area now. You could argue that this could be funded with no additional money but it is true, it would come out of the eighty-five percent that goes into Lincoln and Omaha. That funding is a joint funding. There is a million dollars of Highway User Revenue Gas Tax fee...well, it is Highway User Revenue that goes in for the reimbursement plus the funding for...general fund last year, this is off the top of my head, but I think it is \$1.7 million general dollar, wasn't it or thereabouts, and I think that would be what, \$2.7 million, I think the estimated requirement this year to fully fund the law is the request is \$3.2 or \$3.3 million so we would have to add general fund to fully fund probably of four or five hundred thousand plus whatever would be required here. But in order for Lincoln and Omaha not to have any funds reduced, it would take an A bill in the amount of the estimated cost of this bill.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay, now, Senator Warner, this bill indicates, the fiscal note says that the estimated cost at least for 81-82 is a quarter of a million dollars so we would have to have an A bill for that much plus another four hundred thousand dollars to make sure that Omaha and Lincoln come out intact at least?

SENATOR WARNER: No, not to come out intact. The A bill will