

expansion of the Amtrak service in Nebraska as another form of public transportation. But, Senator Scofield, in closing I wanted to ask you a question about, if you know, I see in the South Dakota situation where they approximately have subsidy. I realize it's probably premature, but I wondered if you had any comments about the extent of subsidy that you were expecting, whether there's a potential break out of the cost versus...state versus local versus fares, I noticed. If you had any further comment on that, I don't mean to bind you for the future, realizing that that is a South Dakota suggestion. But I wondered if you had any comments on that.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I have a...yes, Senator Wehrbein, I have a fairly extensive summary here of where South Dakota is right now. I'd be happy to make that available to you and any member that would want it. And I'll try to give you a quick run down of what South Dakota is looking at right now. Their initial recommendations here, in terms of proposed state and local funding, show start-up and early operation will require state and local financial participation as an investment in this project. Total annual cost of the proposed system is 2.7 million, with approximately 1.5 million estimated in passenger revenues, and they based that on a conservative estimate of a 50 percent load factor on the overall operation. That leaves required funding of 1.2 million. Their airline authority proposed sharing this funding between state and local governments. The proposed funding split was 500,000 in General Funds, 200,000 as one-time funding from the State Aeronautics Fund in South Dakota, and 500,000 in local funds. They propose splitting their local share between nine cities who would be served by this airline. That gives you, I think, some general idea of what they're thinking about. I don't know, their setup is a little different than in Nebraska. We are fortunate enough to already have the essential air service route through the center of the state. And we might be able to do a little bit different kind of funding mix, that's what we'll learn from this study.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you. I would sup...Simply, I'll support this bill for the reasons advanced. I think we need to look more carefully at it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Nelson.