

cent and a half in the out year of the biennium for a total of two and a half cents. It's over a 10 percent increase in the rate that is presently on motor fuels for purposes of the excise tax and I think it's something that needs to be addressed, needs to be pointed out, that it is in the budget and unlike some of the other amendments I intend to bring it to a vote. I would ask adoption of this amendment that would leave the variable rate at the present level. With that, thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, actually I appreciate Senator Hall bringing this to our attention. I would have felt badly, believe it or not, Senator Hall, if this had gone through without a discussion because we know it's buried deep in the budget. It's something the Appropriations Committee discussed in detail. Frankly we discussed it a year ago too and had it passed through and it was vetoed by the Governor. But this year the real crux of this is if you want to continue our '88 road plan, 1988 road plan, as construed then. I'll let Senator Kristensen talk more on that, but it simply amounts to do you want to keep the construction on the time table that we are which actually is already somewhat restricted based on what it had earlier been planned or do you want to level off? The big impact is going to be on the expressway system. As proposed, if we leave it on, leave the tax as it is now, the highway and the highway funding and the interstate would continue, but we would cut back on the expressway system as it is presently being constructed and that has several impacts across the state. And so this represents the amount of construction that the roads can probably get planned for, surveyed for and actually get the bids let and so it represents a gradual growth in that area to improve our state, highway statewide and if we take that money away and get off of the plan it will have an impact. But that essentially is it, as to whether you want to continue our rather significant road plan as it is or whether we should cut back and with the implications that I think Senator Kristensen will get into. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, and, Senator Hall, when your amendment became known, as you know, good news travels fast. I suppose out in