

\$3.8 billion in needs in this state. That's up now well into the \$4 billion of needs and that we were going to have the interstate rehabilitation project done in 10 years in Omaha. To get that done that's going to be in 1999 and we're going to do the expressways within 15 years or begin the construction of the expressways and that's going to be done in 2004. And all the other state needs were going to be done within that 20-year program and that was making better design, improving resurfacing and those are roads all over the State of Nebraska based on some objective standards, just not who could get 25 votes in the Legislature. And we began that in 1988 and so with fiscal year 1990 we had a three and a half cent increase in the variable fuel tax rate and the way that it works, as you all probably know, is that we determine how much money we're going...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...to put into road construction and the rate, part of that fuel tax rate varies to make sure that we have enough money that is stable money that can continue those road projects. Where we're at right now is that we've got the height of the interstate construction going on in Omaha. We knew in 1988 that we were going to have to have much more money than this to do this project, but instead of raising the rate at that time higher and so there would be an extra fund of money there, we decided to raise it when it was needed. And now that we're in the height of that construction project, now is when the need for those small increases, actually I'm surprised that this is all the increase that there is because in the numbers that we'd looked at earlier, you might be talking about a three-cent increase. But instead you're going to phase in a cent this year, cent and a half the next year to be able to keep that project going and as we'll discuss as we go on, that you're not reducing the state budget. If you think that by adopting...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...this amendment...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, it seems like you're the fountain of knowledge, Senator Kristensen, I'd like some questions...what's the total cost of this?