

lot of luck getting a lot of quorum present today either, but be that as it may, I guess you have to take your votes when they come. This issue, the issue of the maximum speed limit for the two-lane highways in the state of Nebraska, I think, is an important one for a variety of reasons and, of course, the committee bill or the committee amendments would specify that the limits on the two-lane highways and on the expressways be 60 miles an hour. That's the maximum speed limit. One of the things that I think is important in the committee amendments and I certainly agree with it and I believe that Senator Kristensen, the chairman of the committee, gave some emphasis to the fact that the Department of Roads has authorization to lower speed limits in any given area on the basis of engineering and traffic investigations. So what the amendment that you're asked to consider now sets a ceiling with the discretion in the Department of Roads to set lower limitations where those might be appropriate. And certainly I've heard from some of you who say I don't want to go 65 miles an hour on X piece of highway. My response to that is no problem. The Department of Roads, after the appropriate engineering studies are completed, the traffic investigation, can legitimately set the limit on any section of highway at anything below 55 miles an hour that is appropriate. I think it is the appropriate policy for this Legislature, however, to set a maximum limit which allows the Department of Roads to recognize the diversity that we have in the state of Nebraska in terms of our two-lane roads and the way that those two-lane roads are used in terms of traffic volume and density and traffic hazards. We've...I passed out a map before of the state of Nebraska and it shows our highway system. I think if you'll take a quick look at that you'll see that there are vast stretches of the state of Nebraska where there is very little traffic congestion and where the roads, particularly those designated on the primary commercial system, are certainly able to accommodate 65 miles an hour, if not higher, speed limits. One of the other considerations I think for this body is what our neighboring states are doing with their speed limits and whether or not they fit appropriately within the policy structure for the state of Nebraska. Kansas, for example, is increasing the speed limits on what it characterizes as its good two-lane highways to 65 miles an hour. Now, Kansas's two...good two-lane highways are those that have six- to ten-foot shoulders on them. We have roads like that in the state of Nebraska. Roughly, those would be the primary commercial systems that can have paved shoulders up to eight feet and then an additional two