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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's the money from whence...it came from that fund. And the idea was, with the pressure we're seeing for additional roads, especially in the populated areas, we have felt that if there was money, that's what it was...that's what the gas tax was collected for. If they could use it, it could expand the building program. If not, it would avoid raising the variable tax rate, if that was to come up. As you know, that's done every...that's looked at every quarter.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. So again...I mean, just...I guess I'm embarrassed to admit, but I really believed that there were General Fund monies that went to the Department of Roads. In no capacity, administration, building of any roads, anything whatsoever, there are no General Fund monies that are appropriated to the Department of Roads?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's true.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. I was going to get up and say that I think that Senator Thompson's amendment, I think, reaches a little bit too deep. No offense, Senator Thompson, but I think \$38 million is a little bit too much. And again, quite honestly, I was thinking that an appropriate number might be the \$6 million that I had recommended, simply because I believed that that was an appropriation that was not being used by the Department of Roads for a particular project. But...and again I'm embarrassed to admit, Senator Mines, that I find out now that there really are no General Funds being appropriated to the Department of Roads. So I'm going to continue to listen to the debate. My inclination is, is that this is a little bit too deep of a cut to the Department of Roads, \$38 million each year. But I want to continue to listen. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Stuthman, followed by Senator Bromm.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I too would like to get a little bit more of a clarification. And I do realize that there's no General Fund