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Legislature, which is going on 36 years. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. They are withdrawn, by the way.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment to the committee amendments, Senator Johnson, AM2712. (Legislative Journal page 1025.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Johnson, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Cudaback, members of the body, this amendment is about growing Nebraska. The expressway system was devised in 1989 for the economic development of this state. It has been relatively successful. We're going to pass out packets, and you will notice that the expressway system that has been created so far, with the exception of a small stretch out in the Panhandle, and a 40-mile stretch from Columbus to Norfolk. But what the expressway system and the interstate system has consisted of is spokes to Lincoln and spokes to Omaha. That's basically what the expressway system has become. One of the things is that the expressway system, in general, is way behind schedule for many reasons. However, what this bill does is it gives the one-half cent sales tax on motor vehicles to the Highway Trust Fund, with the stipulation that it be used for expressway development, and I might say, any expressway development. I know that you know that I have very strong ideas as to what should be done first, but we'll leave the normal way of deciding that in place. We have a competent Highway Commission and a competent Department of Roads, but what we do need to do, since expressway systems were put in place as a tool for economic development, we need to increase the chances of that coming about. What this does is it gives the tools to expand the expressway system, and particularly to expand it outside of the Omaha/Lincoln corridor. I'm not critical of the way that the expressways have been developed to this point in time, because they have been around our two hub cities. That was done correctly. What my concern is now is that we proceed with equal vigor, so that the next tier of expressway construction will not slip further behind, because if this does