

Chairperson:Deb FischerCommittee:Transportation and TelecommunicationsDate of Hearing:February 19, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 39-1365.01, the Department of Roads is required to develop a specific and long-range state highway system plan: "The department shall annually formulate plans to meet the state highway system needs of all facets of the state and shall assign priorities for such needs." In establishing these priorities, the department is to consider a variety of factors, "including, but not limited to, current and projected traffic volume, safety requirements, economic development needs, current and projected demographic trends, and maintenance and enhancement of the quality of life for all Nebraska citizens." *Id*.

LB 1129 would add the following two factors to the list of factors that the Department must consider in prioritizing the state's highway system needs: (1) "the ability of residents of cities of fifteen thousand inhabitants or more to access the Interstate highway system through a completed expressway", and (2) "the impact of uncompleted portions of the expressway system on the economic development of cities along the expressway system."

Principal Introducer:

Senator Mike Flood