



Iowa lawmaker predicts gas tax increase

Associated Press - January 30, 2009 1:34 PM ET

JOHNSTON, Iowa (AP) - A key Iowa legislator says the Legislature could increase the state's gasoline tax by up to 10 cents a gallon.

Oskaloosa Democratic Sen. Tom Rielly predicted Friday that lawmakers could approve an 8 to 10 cent increase in the tax, now at 20.7 cents a gallon. Rielly is chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee.

If Democrats back a measure, Sen. Dave Tkepkes (JEP'-keys) of Gowrie says Republicans would work with them. Tkepkes is the top Republican on the House Transportation Committee.

A dime increase would raise about \$220 million annually for transportation projects.

The legislators were speaking on the public television show, "Iowa Press."

Gov. Chet Culver has said he's uneasy with an increase but hasn't threatened a veto.