

# THE REGION

*This section considers the means for the city and county to undertake long term regional planning and reviews likely growth issues associated with such an effort.*

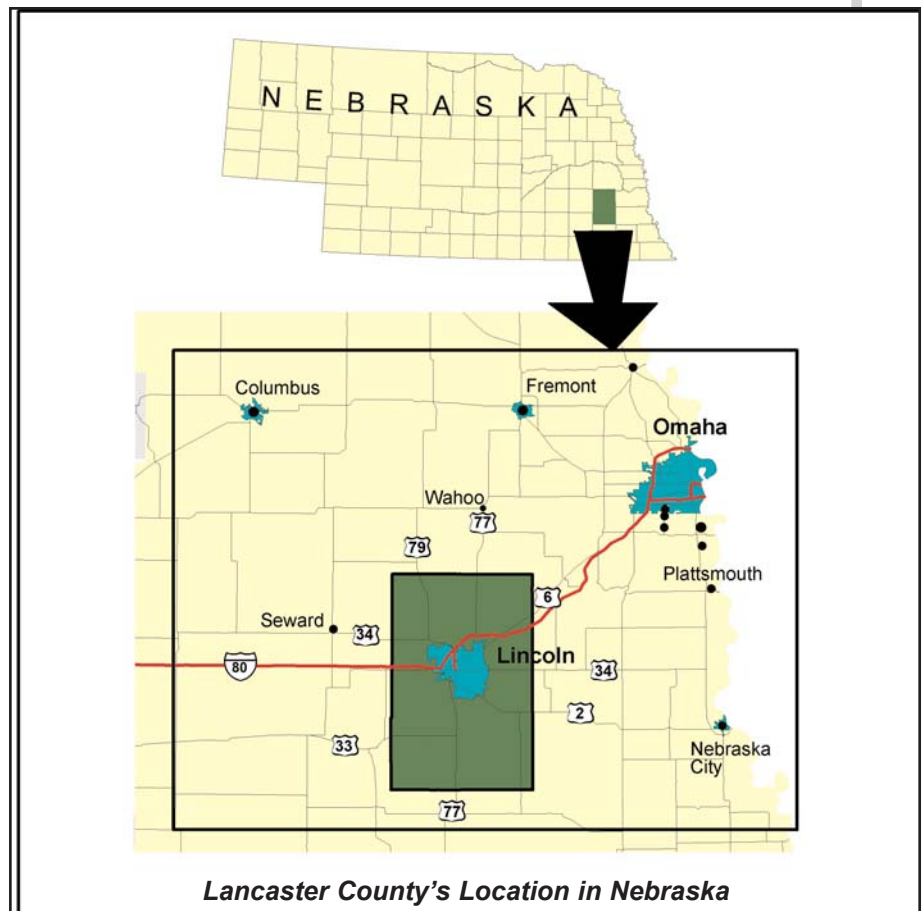
## LONG RANGE REGIONAL PLANNING

Growth projections by the Lincoln-Lancaster County and Omaha Planning Departments envision a combined metropolitan population approaching 1.5 million people by the year 2050. Though beyond the nearer term planning horizon of this Comprehensive Plan, a fifty year perspective is not too long a period to use when viewing the growth and evolution of a region.

Sustaining a healthy natural environment, keeping a desirable quality of life for all, and forging a viable economy are but a few of this Plan's aspirations. To secure such ends for everyone in the larger region will mean a thoughtful coordination. Planning and growth issues will need to be approached with care. The communities involved need to reach a common understanding of the value to be placed on the region's natural, cultural, economic, and historic resources. Time will be needed to faithfully craft a vision for regional planning and development.

The City of Lincoln and Lancaster County are committed to further examining regional planning issues for southeastern Nebraska. Much public dialogue about the future of the region is needed if core planning issues and potential solutions are to be fully explored. The time frame for completing such work extends into the implementation period of this

Comprehensive Plan. As the fruits of this effort become available, they should be considered for incorporation into the Plan.



## **E**MERGING REGIONAL PLANNING ISSUES

Based upon preliminary discussions completed so far, a number of regional planning issues have emerged. These issues are important to communities throughout the region as they intimately affect how each community views its future. While these issues will not dictate a particular city's or county's given destiny, they are harbingers of planning trends and development forces that will impact the collective future of the region. These issues include:

- Urban growth, edge development, and community densities
- Regional transportation planning and community mobility
- Cooperative planning of infrastructure and concerns of overlapping jurisdictions
- Cooperative planning of education and public facilities
- Historic preservation planning and central urban revitalization
- Conservation and protection of environmental and natural systems
- Cooperative planning of water resource management
- Preservation of agricultural lands and the "right to farm"
- Affordable and low-income housing
- Cooperative planning for regional economic development
- Cooperative planning for shared technologies
- Cooperative planning for multicultural equity and diversity
- Assessment of State, County and Local public policies for sustainable communities
- System of sustainable community indicators
- Mechanisms for implementing and maintaining a system of cooperative planning