



A. Study Background and Process

Study Background

In meeting its long term transportation and land use goals, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan for the Year 2025 recognizes the importance of expanding opportunities for furthering alternative modes of travel and mobility.

The City-County Comprehensive Plan's transportation and mobility chapter -- also known as the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) -- lists two studies to be undertaken during the first two years of the planning period to specifically address this subject:

- ◆ Multi-Modal Transportation

"There should be a community-wide review identifying near- and long-term multi-modal transportation and mobility opportunities for Lincoln and Lancaster County. The study should consider alternative approaches to providing personal transportation services, possible characteristics of service levels, and funding options best serving our community objectives. The study should be completed within approximately two years of the adoption of the Plan."

- ◆ Community-Wide Mobility Review

"Community-Wide Mobility Review of those groups whose transportation and mobility needs are not being met today. Early in the planning effort, groups comprising this portion of Lincoln and Lancaster County's population should be identified, including unique transportation and mobility characteristics. The study should consider at a minimum alternative approaches for providing transportation services to these groups, level of service characteristics, and funding options. The study is to be completed within approximately two years from the adoption of the Plan."

These two studies have been integrated into a single planning effort termed the "**Multi-Modal Transportation Plan Study.**"

The **primary focus** of this study is to identify realistic means for expanding travel, mobility, and accessibility opportunities within the City and County by supporting and promoting alternative modes of transportation. This includes a fuller understanding of the relationship that land use policy, growth planning, and design standards play in furthering the ultimate success of alternative transportation modes.

The study is designed to enhance the policies and strategies contained in the adopted City-County Comprehensive Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan. This study is not to revise or revisit the goals or underlying approach of the Comprehensive Plan and LRTP. Rather, this study will reinforce and expand upon those policies and strategies to ensure their effective implementation.

The **goal of the study** is to define means for furthering the usage of a wider range of travel modes to meet the Comprehensive Plan's and LRTP's Vision for enhancing multi-modal opportunities. This effort must at the same time consider and acknowledge the community's current dominant mode of travel (i.e., the automobile) while seeking greater usage of alternative transportation modes.

Study Approach

The Multi-Modal Transportation Plan Study occurred over approximately a one year period with the work performed in a six-phased approach:

Phase I - Study Management. This phase involved general study organization, including establishment of the Task Force, selection of the project consultant, further delineating the public involvement mechanisms, and determining overall reporting procedures.

Phase II - Data and Information Base. This phase involved the collection of data about Lincoln-area travel behavior and transportation service characteristics. This phase included a statistically valid telephone interview survey of local residents, interviews with key community stakeholders, a public open house to gather ideas for transportation system enhancements, a review of available U.S. Census demographic information, and comparison with similar peer cities.



Phase III - Major Themes. This phase involved the identification of major findings from the analysis of information gathered in Phase II. This included themes concerning travel characteristics, transportation services, financing, and general transportation policies and standards.

Phase IV - Modal Options and Policy. This phase involved a review of the realistic modal choices available for the Lincoln traveling market now and into the future. This included a descriptive evaluation of the options selected for analysis as well as a second public open house to receive further community comments on emerging recommendations.



Phase V - Multi-Modal Plan and Implementation Program. This phase involved the detailing of a long range multi-modal transportation plan for the Lincoln area, along with a program for implementing its recommendations.

Phase VI - Plan Review. This phase involved the formal public review of the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan.

Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force

Aiding in the completion of this study was a 16 member citizen committee. This committee, termed the "Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force," served as the primary point of community involvement throughout the study. The Task Force worked closely with members of local staff and the consultant team in formulating the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan for the greater Lincoln area.

Members of the Task Force were drawn locally from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests. The members of the Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force included:

- ◆ Kit Boesch (Human Services)
- ◆ Nye Bond (Citizen/Transit User)
- ◆ Susan Dunn (Member of Alternatives for Sustainable Transportation)
- ◆ Duane Eitel (Chair of Nebraska Transit and Rail Advisory Council)
- ◆ Margaret Hall (Citizen/Transit User)
- ◆ Elaine Hammer (Member of Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee)
- ◆ Rick Krueger (Krueger Development)
- ◆ Marian Malone (President of Citizen Transportation Coalition)
- ◆ Bill McCoy (Lincoln Public Schools)
- ◆ Tad McDowell (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
- ◆ Greg MacLean (HDR Engineering)
- ◆ Eric Miller (University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student)
- ◆ Patte Newman (City Council Member)
- ◆ Oscar R. Pohirieth (Lincoln Public Schools)
- ◆ Gordon Scholz (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
- ◆ Terry Werner (City Council Member)

Multi-Modal Transportation Staff Resource Panel

Assisting the Task Force was a staff resource panel that drew on the expertise of a wide range of professionals with knowledge on transportation planning and issues. This group was kept informed of the research and direction of the study throughout the process and aided in identifying issues and information that was helpful to the Task Force and the study.

The members of the Multi-Modal Transportation Staff Resource Panel included:

- ◆ Mike Brienzo (Public Works & Utilities - Transportation Planning)
- ◆ Susan Epps and Michelle Niederhaus (Madonna Rehabilitation Center)
- ◆ Terry Genrich (Parks and Recreation)
- ◆ Ann Harrell (Mayor's Office)
- ◆ Les Helms (Transit Union)
- ◆ Randy Hoskins (Public Works & Utilities - Traffic Engineering)
- ◆ Brian Mathers (Lincoln Action Program)
- ◆ Randy Peters (Nebraska Department of Roads)
- ◆ Doug Pillard (County Engineer's Office)
- ◆ Ken Smith (Public Works & Utilities - Parking)
- ◆ Sandy Strickland (Area Agency on Aging)
- ◆ Larry Worth (Public Works and Utilities - StarTran)
- ◆ Jerry Wray (Nebraska Department of Roads)
- ◆ Federal Transit Administration Representative
- ◆ Federal Highway Administration Representative
- ◆ City-County Planning Department Staff

Project Consultant

SRF Consulting Group of Minneapolis, MN was chosen as the lead project consultant for this study following a thorough consultant selection process. McCollom Management Consulting was included as a sub-consultant to provide transit operations expertise. SIGMA Group was also subcontracted to provide public opinion sampling expertise to gauge the attitude of Lincoln households toward multi-modal transportation issues.

Multi-Modal Transportation Study Task Force Meeting Schedule

The Multi-Modal Transportation Study Task Force held 16 separate meetings over an 11 month period between July 30, 2003, and June 29, 2004, to help develop the findings and proposals included in the Multi-Modal Transportation Study final report. The date, time, and location of each of these Task Force meetings is below:

- ◆ Wednesday, July 30, 2003
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building

- ◆ Tuesday, August 5, 2003
MPO Technical Committee
Start Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building



- ◆ Tuesday, August 12, 2003
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building
- ◆ Tuesday, September 9, 2003
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building
- ◆ Tuesday, September 30, 2003
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building
- ◆ Tuesday, October 28, 2003
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building
- ◆ Tuesday, November 4, 2003
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building
- ◆ Tuesday, December 16, 2003
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Classroom A, Justice & Law Building
- ◆ Tuesday, January 13, 2004
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building
- ◆ Tuesday, February 10, 2004
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building
- ◆ Tuesday, March 9, 2004
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building

- ◆ Tuesday, April 13, 2004
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building

- ◆ Tuesday, May 11, 2004
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building

- ◆ Tuesday, May 18, 2004
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building

- ◆ Tuesday, June 8, 2004
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building

- ◆ Tuesday, June 29, 2004
Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 113, County-City Building

A project web page was developed on the City-County web site for the Multi-Modal Transportation Study which functioned as a clearinghouse for project information. Meeting materials for each of the Task Force meetings were posted on this home page for public viewing. Each of the meetings were open to the public, and a public comment period was allotted at the beginning of each of the meetings. The public was also able to submit comments on the project web page. Presentations and updates highlighting the progress of the Multi-Modal Transportation Study were given to various organizations throughout the study process.

Open Houses

Two open houses were held as part of the Multi-Modal Transportation Study process in order to inform the public on the status of project as well as to gather input from the public regarding the issues and concepts addressed by the study. The open houses were held on the following dates and at the following locations:





- ◆ Tuesday, October 14, 2003
Multi-Modal Transportation Study - Open House
Start Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Energy Square, 1111 'O' Street

- ◆ Monday, March 8, 2004
Multi-Modal Transportation Study - Open House
Start Time: 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Location: Van Brunt Visitors Center - 313 N 13th Street

Summaries of both of these open houses are included in the Appendix of this report.



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