

# LINCOLN

*The Community of Opportunity*

Chamber of Commerce

May 5, 2011

Marvin Krout  
Director, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department  
City of Lincoln  
555 S 10 ST  
Lincoln, NE 68508



RE: LPlan 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Marvin:

I want to express my thanks to you and the Planning Department staff for soliciting feedback from the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce regarding Lincoln's Long-Range Transportation Plan. As the organization tasked by the City to bring jobs and create Economic Development in Lincoln, road and infrastructure development are very important issues to our 1,500 members.

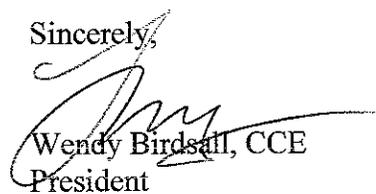
After lengthy study from our LPlan Focus Group; consisting of engineers, architects, land developers and attorneys; and a review of those recommendations by members of our Board of Directors, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce makes several recommendations to ensure the continued growth of opportunities for our citizens.

A complete list of those recommendations is included with this letter.

In summary, our organization feels it is unrealistic to ask the community to choose between two LRTP's so vastly different from one to another. The kinds of choices presented in the parochial divides of capital vs. maintenance would only further fracture the community. Instead, we would suggest a hybrid model that blends elements of both plans. First and foremost on the list of criteria for projects to include in that hybrid model should be how the project impacts our ability to expand our road network and provide jobs and economic opportunities to Lincoln's residents.

In our analysis, based on the previously selected growth plan, the final hybrid version of the LRTP must place some emphasis on capital construction. This emphasis does not prevent either the Mayoral Administration or the City Council from investing in needed maintenance projects though the prioritization of general fund dollars. Only through these tough decisions can a city truly be great.

Sincerely,



Wendy Birdsall, CCE  
President

Lincoln Chamber of Commerce  
Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development

CC: Mayor Chris Beutler  
Lincoln City Council

## **Lincoln Chamber of Commerce LPlan 2040 Recommendations**

- A second evaluation of the project cost estimates must take place. Currently, private sector reviews show savings above those shown in the plan.
- Lincoln Public Works Department must look at recommendations made by the Mayor's Roadway Taskforce. Some of the Task Force's recommendations could be used to allow for more projects in the plan.
- Every effort must be made to use Wheel Tax dollars for construction only. Areas such as snow removal, design, and contingencies should be open for discussions about using general fund dollars.
- The City of Lincoln should evaluate the benefits of making major intersection improvements and then improving the smaller straight-line sections in-between.
- Any projects that have already expended city dollars, especially Impact Fees, for design, environmental study, or engineering must be included in the plan.
- Yankee Hill Road should be improved to arterial status along its entire length. Current private sector evaluations show it to be the southern-most needed road for the bulk of the upcoming plan.

In order to strike a better balance between the proposed "Capital Emphasis" plan and the "Maintenance Emphasis" plan, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce could support the level of funding in package "A", "B" or "C" with the inclusion of the following projects:

- Project #32 – N.48<sup>th</sup> Street, Adams to Superior
- Project #33 – S. 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Hwy-2
- Project #34 – Havelock Avenue, N. 70<sup>th</sup> St. to N. 84<sup>th</sup> Street
- Project #39 – Pine Lake Road, S. 57<sup>th</sup> Street to Hwy-2
- Project #43 – Yankee Hill road, S. 40<sup>th</sup> Street to S.56<sup>th</sup> Street
- Project #46 – S. 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Amber Hill road to Yankee Hill Road
- Project #56 – Yankee Hill Road, S. 56<sup>th</sup> Street to S. 70<sup>th</sup> Street
- Project #61 – Yankee Hill Road, S. 70<sup>th</sup> Street to S. 84<sup>th</sup> Street
- Project #65 – Yankee Hill Road, S. 84<sup>th</sup> Street to Hwy-2
- Project #68 – W. Van Dorn, Coddington to US-77

Special Consideration should be given to a project not currently listed in the "Needs Based Plan"

- Fletcher, N. 56<sup>th</sup> to 70<sup>th</sup>