

Mayor's Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee
2740 "A" Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

December 15, 2016

Lincoln City Council Members
City/County Building
555 So. 10th Suite 301
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Honorable members of the Lincoln City Council:

Like many Lincoln citizens, the Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) has been involved in the year-long process to update the LP 2040 and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). We are concerned about recent criticism by some that the proposed LRTP spends too much money on projects other than streets. This is especially surprising given the community feedback during the update process:

When asked what they love about transportation in Lincoln, the most common responses included the N Street protected bike lane, the trails, the availability of travel options (bus, bike, walk). When asked what they would change about transportation in Lincoln, the most common responses included the car-centric mentality, signal timing, and better balance among all travel modes (LRTP 2016: 7 p).

While roads are critical to keep Lincoln strong, a comprehensive transportation system that supports multiple modes of travel is essential to the City's economic vitality and well-being of its citizens. Supporting a single mode of transportation at the expense of other modes is unproductive and misguided. In regards to trail funding, there are several important facts to consider.

1. The City spends no general funds on new trail projects. We are extremely fortunate to have strong, widespread private support for these projects, thanks to the Great Plains Trails Network's efforts over the years. Private funds serve as matching dollars for the Transportation Alternative Program and the Recreational Trails Program available through the Federal Highway Administration.
2. This designated federal funding cannot be shifted from trails to streets, even if our community leaders supported this short-sighted action.
3. Currently only 1.5% of the projected funding in the LRTP would be spent on trails, none of which would come from the City's general fund.

Lincoln is a great city--the result of many years of thoughtful, cooperative leadership. We urge our local leaders to adopt the LP 2040 Comprehensive Plan update, which provides a solid foundation that makes economic sense and is based on serving the needs of all of our citizens.

Respectfully,



Gary Bentrup
Chairperson of the Mayor's Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee