



Infrastructure Financing Strategies

Whereas: The Lincoln Metro Area is forecast to have the fourth fastest growing population on the plains until at least 2020 with an anticipated population growth of 83,000 people. The Lincoln Chamber believes that managed growth in Lincoln should balance the need for new infrastructure while maintaining Lincoln's high quality of life;

Whereas: The City of Lincoln has consistently lacked implementation of plans to adequately accommodate the increase in Lincoln's population resulting in:

- An increase in lot prices from \$15,000 in 1990 to over \$34,000 in 1998
- More congestion on City Streets
- Inadequate infrastructure investment
- An escalating cost for land acquisition
- A shortage of affordable housing in Lincoln
- Current funding for road construction does not meet the needs of the growing metropolitan area

Whereas: The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors believes that development of infrastructure is a major issue for the City of Lincoln and intends to focus staff and volunteer time, efforts and resources on this issue in 1999.

Whereas: The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors encourages all elected officials and candidates running for city offices to acknowledge this issue and begin creating solutions to alleviate these problems

Be it Therefore Resolved:

That the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors advocates that funding priorities be established regarding infrastructure issues and short and long term solutions be introduced, debated and implemented.

The Board of Directors also suggests that the community needs to identify creative financing options to aggressively fund infrastructure improvements. Ideas such as utilization of assessment districts, tap fees, minimum rate increases in sewer and water rates, some form of sanitation improvement districts, internal reallocation of gas tax dollars within the public works department should be given consideration.

The board also suggests the City Council and Mayor reconsider the idea of issuing general obligation bonds to pay for infrastructure development.

Adopted Fall 1998