

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

COUNTY/CITY BUILDING

555 SOUTH 10TH STREET

Room 303

Monday, October 13, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

• Welcome and Introductions

College View	East Campus	Clinton	Hartley	Hawley	Irvingdale
Tracy Corr	Paul Johnson	Gloria Eddins	Pat Steer	Carrol Mathias	Roy Helm; Issac Remboldt
Meadowlane	Prescott	West A	Witherbee	Woods Park	
Kay Wenzel	Mary Unger	Bill Wasiak	Fred Freytag	Randy Smith	

Other Attendees: Jon Carlson (Mayors Office), David Cary (Planning), Rachel Christopher (Planning), Andrew Thierolf (Planning), Ayden Johnson (Planning), Jesse Poore (FHU)

• Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments (presented by Jon)

- State of the City last week, booklet summarizing the highlights passed out; watch the video here: <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Mayor/State-of-the-City-2025>

• Development Services Update (David Cary, Planning and Development Services Director)

- Merger of Building and Safety and Planning is official as of Tuesday the 14th; new name "Planning and Development Services Department"
- Change after review of all services to improve customer service, discussions started back in June with departure of Building and Safety director
- Somewhat similar to Omaha that has Planning, Building and Safety, and Urban Development under one umbrella; visited with their staff to get a better understanding
- Efficiencies noted such as single decision tree
- Plan to physically locate similar teams together (ex: Development Review in Planning and Plan Review in B&S)

- New Assistant Director position opening up this week for applications
- New Development Services division
- See attached slides for more details
- Clinton NA concerned about code enforcement efforts, clarified the merger won't cut any staff, just reorganizing
- Neighborhoods were not directly engaged in the decision, but the merge is at the beginning stages and feedback is welcomed moving forward
- Neighborhood contacts are very outdated for some, could encourage many of these organizations to ensure this stays up to date, or establish a stable mailing address like a PO box, to stay engaged in development applications
- Possibly requirement for developers to meet with neighborhoods (not just encouraged)
- Need to better track complaints that are sitting or not resolved, direct contact versus just a letter regarding the complaint

- **Long Range Transportation Plan (Rachel Christopher, Andrew Thierolf, & Ayden Johnson (Planning) & Jesse Poore (FHU))**

- Comprehensive Plan, Long Range Transportation Plan and Mobility Plan three coordinated efforts to update the documents; First two are updated every 5 years, the mobility plan is a new document for Lincoln combining the Lincoln Bike Plan and 2012 Pedestrian and Bike Plan
- See attached slides for more details and the project website for the open house materials www.lincoln.ne.gov/planforward
- Online engagement is open now until the end of October

- **Announcements**

- October 23rd: LRTP/Comprehensive Plan Open House at Culler Middle School from 5:30-7:30 pm
- October 30th: Waste Matters Community Discussion at Lux Middle School from 5 to 7 pm

- **Future Agenda Ideas**

- Will have the team back in November to do the neighborhoods focus group meeting

- **Adjourned at 6:40 pm**

Next Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable Meeting
November 10, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
City County Building Room 303



The Future of Transportation and Mobility

Lincoln & Lancaster County



Why It Matters

The Lincoln metro area is growing, and so are our transportation needs. From highways and rural roads to sidewalks, trails, and transit—every part of the system shapes how we get to school, work, the store, or the park. This planning effort will guide investments through 2050 to make travel safer, more reliable, and more connected for everyone.

How You Can Participate



Open House

Thursday, October 23 • 5:30-7:30 PM Culler Middle School (5201 Vine Street, Lincoln)



Interactive Map & Survey



www.lincoln.ne.gov/planforward

Your voice matters!

Tell us where transportation works well, where it's challenging, and what improvements you'd like to see. Together, we can build a system that keeps Lincoln and Lancaster County moving forward.

PLAN forward

Lincoln-Lancaster County
2050 Comprehensive Plan

2026 Update



LINCOLN
Planning Department



What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The Lincoln-Lancaster County 2050 Comprehensive Plan establishes our community's vision and provides a roadmap for achieving that vision. The Plan is an important endeavor that will shape the community over the next 30 years and includes topics such as land use, economic development, housing, transportation, health and sustainability.

The theme of the Comprehensive Plan is "Plan Forward," because it envisions a future that not only looks forward in time, but also forward in concept with new and innovative ideas to support our growing community. This is the community's plan and we rely on your input to make it successful.

The current 2050 Comprehensive Plan was approved in November 2021. This update maintains the 2050 planning horizon and provides the opportunity to affirm major assumptions and add important new items.

Planning staff are leading the update with the Planning Commission serving as steering committee.

Potential topics to include in the update:

- Expanding the "Great Neighborhoods" discussion and policies
- Downtown changes since 2021
- Policies that address our aging population
- Incorporating new recommendations from other ongoing planning efforts including the Long Range Transportation Plan and Mobility Plan, Vision Zero Action Plan, Wilderness Park Subarea Plan, Lancaster County Strategic Plan, and more

Overall Schedule for Combined "Plan Forward" Process (Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Plans)

Includes extensive public outreach:

- In-person and virtual open houses
- Pop-ups at community events
- Focus groups
- Info kiosks at key locations
- Coordinated websites and social media
- Monthly Planning Commission briefings

FLU / GROWTH TIER MAPS
EXISTING CONDITIONS
BIG PICTURE CONCEPTS

Phase 1

JULY

OPEN
HOUSE &
VIRTUAL
OPEN
HOUSE
OCTOBER

CONCEPT REFINEMENT
FUTURE SCENARIOS
PROJECT PRIORITIZATION
FINALIZE MOBILITY PLAN

Phase 2

JANUARY

OPEN
HOUSE &
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OPEN
HOUSE
APRIL

DRAFT REVIEW &
APPROVAL
(COMP PLAN &
LRTP)

Phase 3

AUGUST

OPEN
HOUSE &
VIRTUAL
OPEN
HOUSE
SEPTEMBER

lincoln.ne.gov/planforward2050



READY TO TALK TRASH?

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR CHANCE TO BE HEARD.

WASTE MATTERS

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Join us for a conversation about the waste we produce, how we go about reusing our waste, and what happens to our waste when we put it in the bin. Your input is vital and will contribute to the City's efforts to educate residents, businesses, and visitors on how we all can level up our efforts to reduce and reuse waste in Lincoln.

OCTOBER 30, 2025 • 5 - 7 PM

LUX MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

7800 HIGH STREET, LINCOLN, NE 68506



**CITY_{of}
LINCOLN**





The new **Planning & Development Services Department**

The merger of the City's Planning
and Building & Safety Departments
– David Cary, Director



What & Why



What – An organizational evaluation of Planning & Building & Safety.



Why – To continue to improve **service delivery** by evaluating internal operations to ensure that they are optimized FOR the citizens and the development community.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Product Delivery thru Customer Service Excellence



“Every delayed permit or stalled business license chips away at trust in local government. People rely on their cities to act quickly and effectively, especially when their jobs and quality of life are at stake. That's why local leaders are finding creative ways to speed up approvals, slashing wait times that might have seemed impossible to shorten.

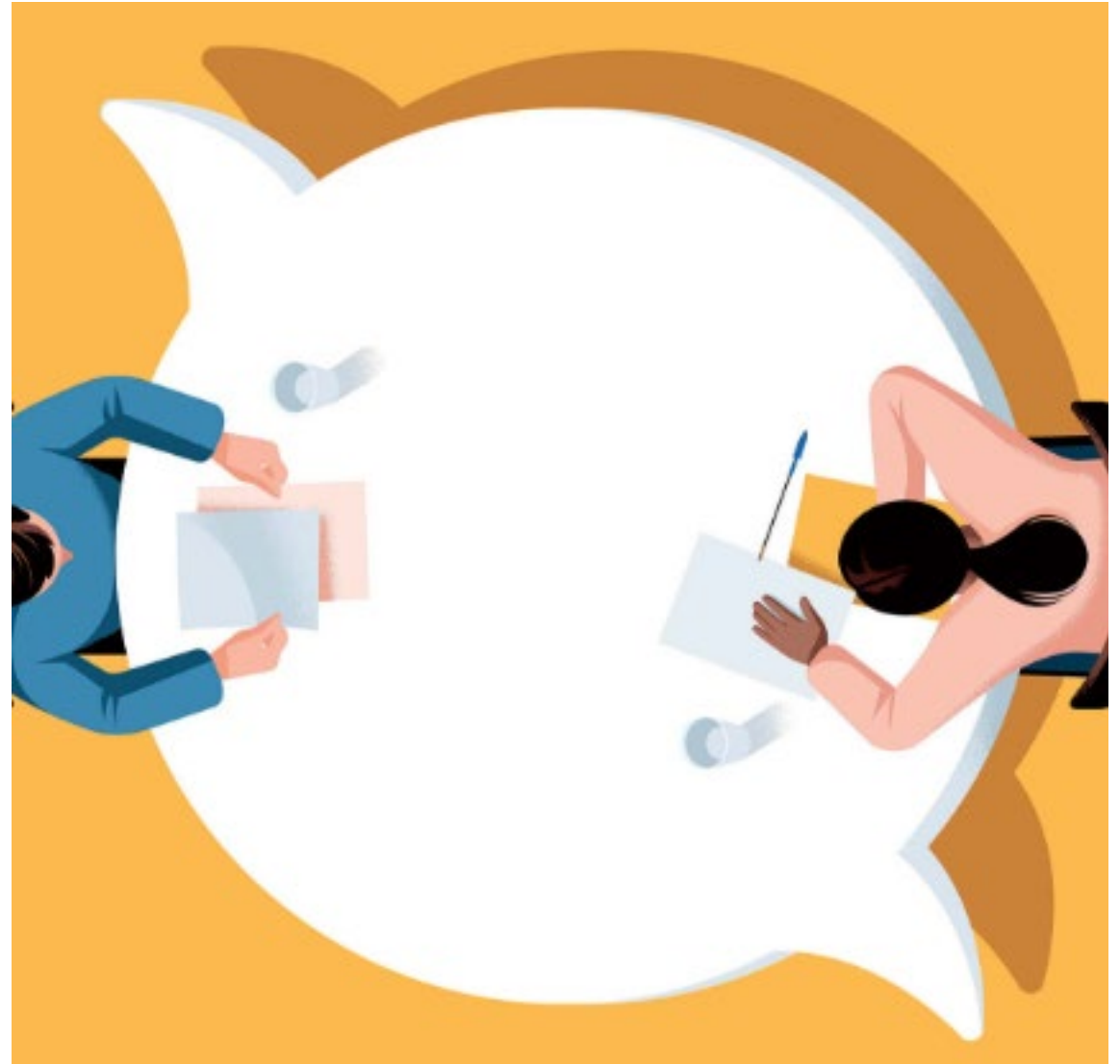
By streamlining these processes, cities aren't just improving efficiency. They're following through on commitments, rebuilding trust, and proving to residents that local government can respond to their needs.”

Source: Bloomberg Cities Network with Support from The Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins

What Have We Done

Based on preliminary feedback from stakeholders:

- Held meetings with core B&S and Planning Department staff members to gather thoughts and ideas
- Conveyed to both departments the WHAT and WHY this work is important
- Director David Cary began the integration into the day-to-day operations of B&S
- Director Cary held the initial discussion with HR on reorganization and hiring steps



What Have We Done



Peer/Industry Review of City Planning Organizational Structures by Functions/Divisions

Department Name	City of Omaha Urban Planning	City of Boise - Planning & Development Services	City of Fort Collins-Planning, Development, Transportation	City of Henderson - Community Development & Services	City of Gainesville - Sustainable Development	City of Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department
City/State	Omaha, NE	Boise, ID	Fort Collins, CO	Henderson, NV	Gainesville, FL	Lincoln, NE
Function						
Planning	x	x	x	x	x	x
Zoning	x	x	x	x	x	Shared with B&S
Building	x	x	x	x	x	
Permits	x	x	x	x	x	
Code Compliance	x		x	x	x	
Transportation			x	DSC		
Engineering			x	DSC		
Economic Health					x	
Sustainability				x	x	
Urban Development/Redevelopment	x					
Code Compliance & Parking		x				

What Have We Discovered

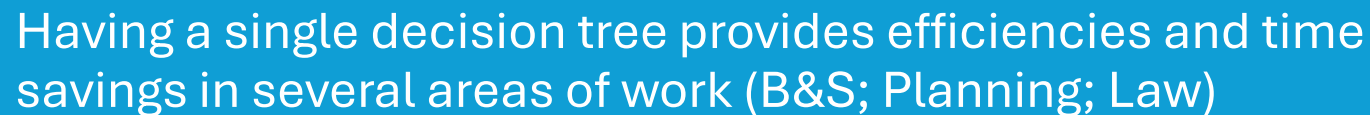
There are significant synergies between B&S and Planning regarding a potential merging of the two departments

An orange rectangular box with rounded corners. A light orange arrow points downwards from its bottom right corner towards the green box below.

Development Services as an overarching organizational model is where the most opportunities exist

- Development Review in Planning and Plan Review in B&S

Having a single decision tree provides efficiencies and time savings in several areas of work (B&S; Planning; Law)

A blue rectangular box with rounded corners. A light blue arrow points downwards from its bottom right corner towards the purple box below.

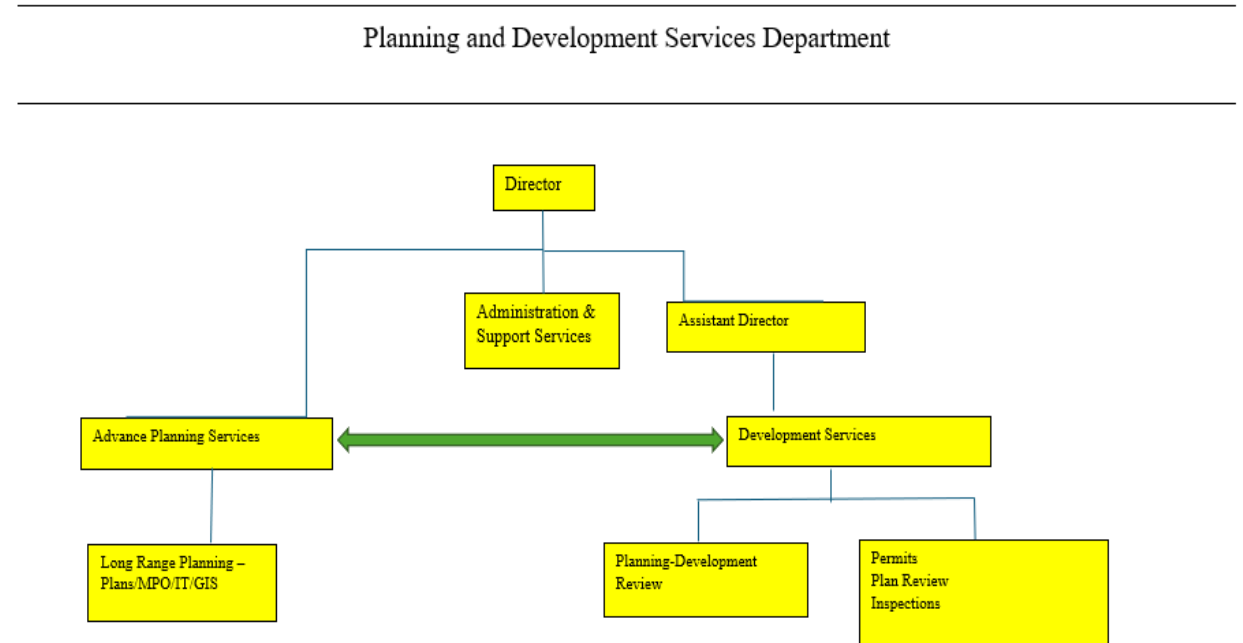
Several existing areas of work in the two departments can function largely as they currently do (i.e. Long Range Planning Division, building inspections, managing the B&S enterprise fund)

The Recommendation

Combining the Planning and Building & Safety Departments and organize around a single department structure entitled:

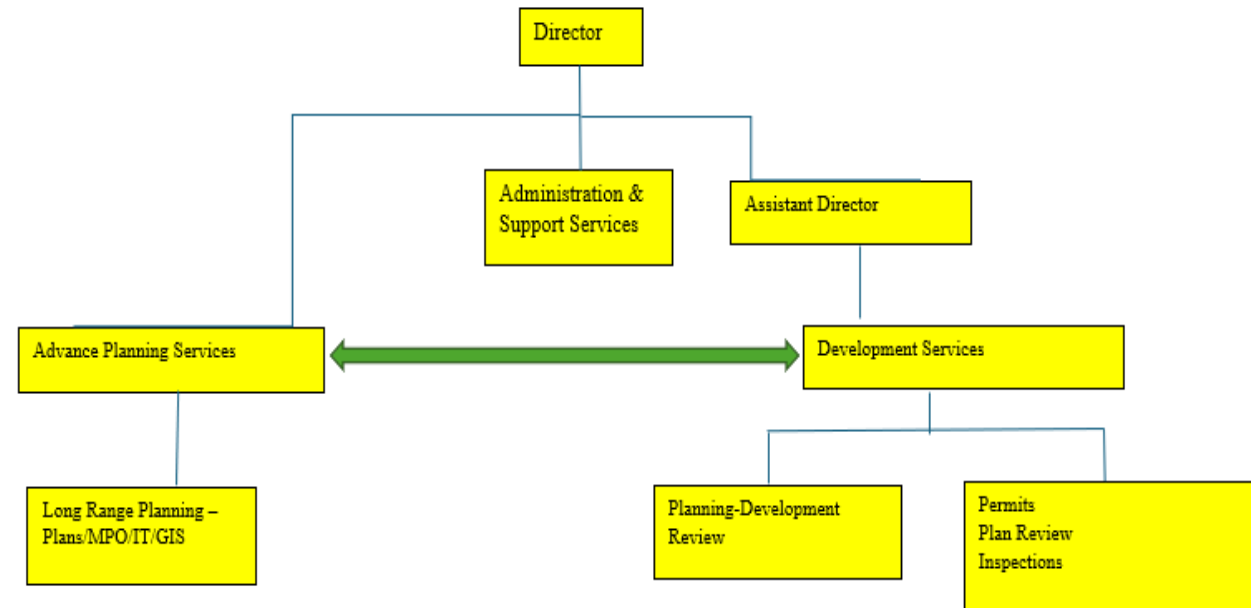
“Planning & Development Services Department”

Combined Planning and Building & Safety Departments
Organizational Chart



Planning and Development Services Department

Planning &
Development
Services
Operations and
Administration



Expected Outcomes

Service Excellence : By operationalizing city development review functions geared towards providing service to applicants wanting Building Permits and Entitlements, we will provide service excellence.

We are flipping the city's internal ethos of organizing staff to serve customers instead of organizing staff to serve the internal operations.

Force Multiplier: By simply reorganizing the city can increase bandwidth to provide enhanced services AND provide **Service Excellence**.



Low Hanging Fruit

- Zoning Services
 - Determinations
 - Letters
 - Interpretations
- Counter Services
 - Co-Locating Plan Review with the Development Review counter staff
- Efficiency for Customers & Staff



Next Steps - Implementation

July-September 2025

Create new Assistant Director position - HR |
Personnel Board | City Council

Gain additional feedback from the development
community and other stakeholders

October 2025

Commence implementation of the new
Department of Planning & Development Services

October-November 2025

Hire new Assistant Director of Planning

Bring Development Review Planners across the
hallway to provide zoning and land use expertise at
Development Services front counter



PLAN forward



Lincoln-Lancaster County 2050 Comprehensive Plan
2026 Update

Lincoln MPO 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan
2026 Update

Lincoln Mobility Plan

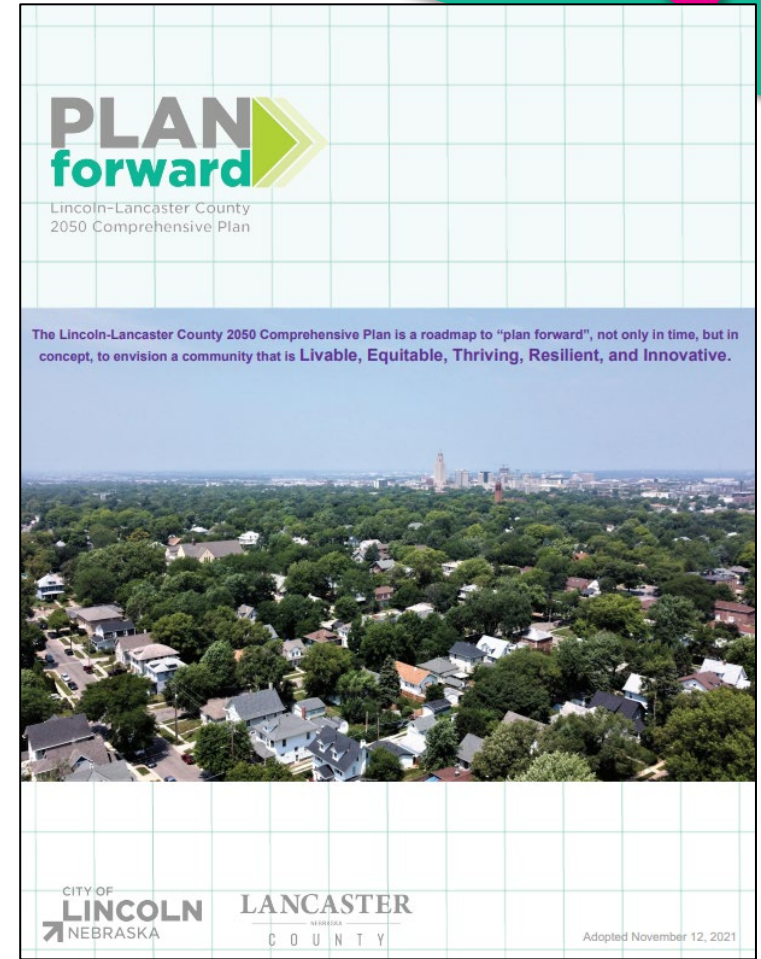


LINCOLN
Planning Department



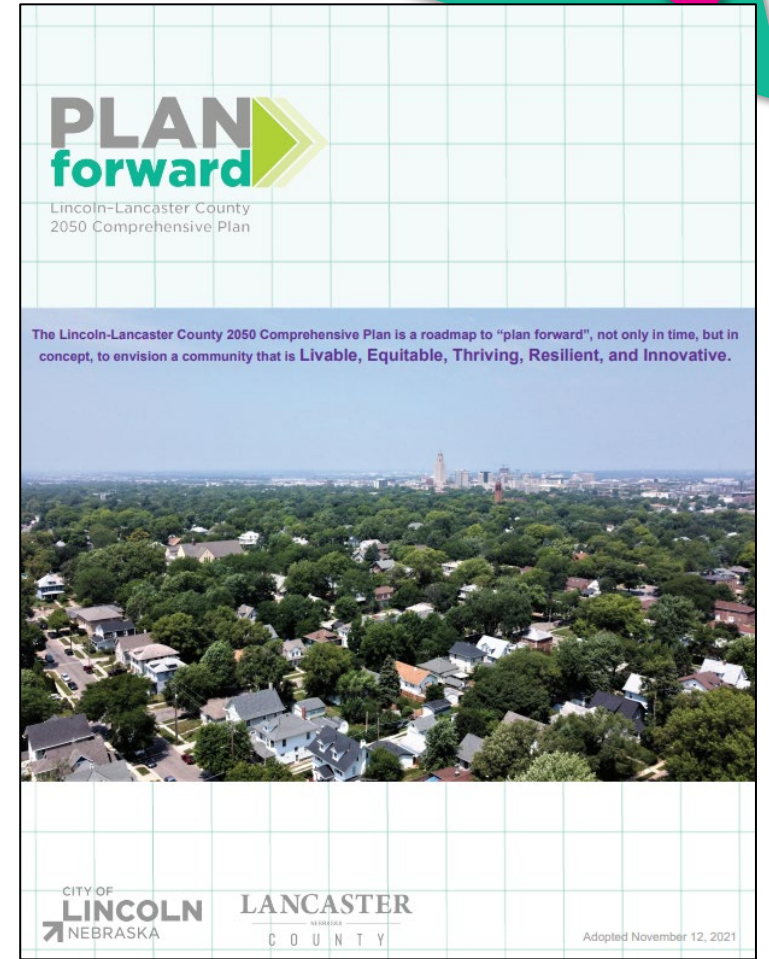
2050 Comprehensive Plan

- Adopted November 12, 2021
- Combined City and County plan
- Establishes community vision through 2050
- Where, how, and when the community will grow
- Basis for capital programming, zoning, and subarea plans



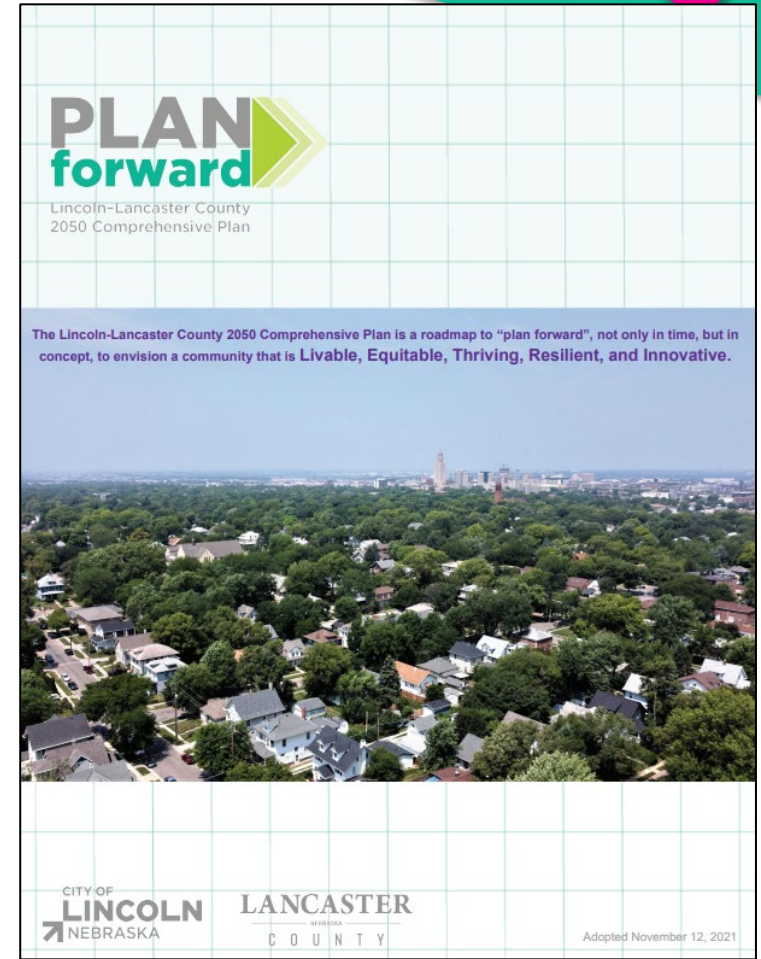
Updating the Comprehensive Plan

- “Major” update every 10 years
- “Minor” update every 5 years
 - Growth horizon remains 2050
 - Affirm major assumptions and update information
 - Add important new items



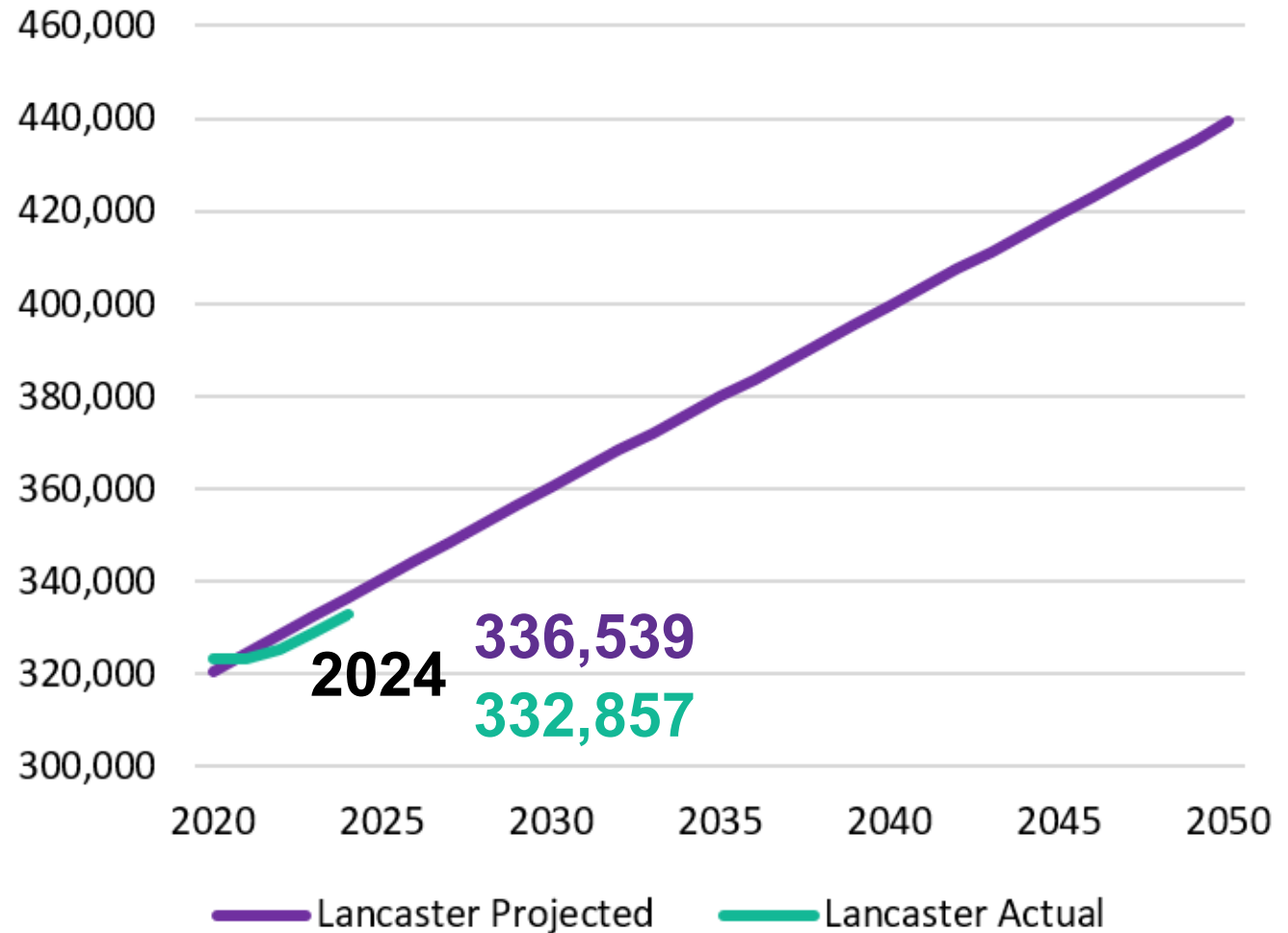
2050 Plan to be Refreshed, NOT Replaced

- Embodies long tradition of comprehensive planning
- Many long-standing policies, goals, projects, and assumptions continue
- Parallel process with updated Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Mobility Plan



Population Projections Remain Accurate

- Completed by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research in 2020
- Lincoln is roughly 90% of county population



Land Area Growth is Matching Expectations

- Since 1960 Lincoln has grown by approximately one square mile per year
- The Comprehensive Plan assumes that growth will continue

2022: 0.94 sq mi

2023: 1.09 sq mi

2024: 1.45 sq mi

2025: 0.20 sq mi

Comprehensive Plan Achievements in the Past Five Years

- Parking reform text amendment
- Local food text amendment
- Increasing opportunities for residential uses
- Inventory non-ag uses in county zoning
- Updated Historic Preservation design standards

Comprehensive Plan Achievements in the Past Five Years

- City added 3.7 square miles in accordance with the Future Land Use and Priority Growth Area maps
- Two Capital Improvement Programs (CIP's) approved with conformance to the Comprehensive Plan
- Additions: University Place and Belmont Neighborhood Plans, Local Food System Plan

Potential Priority Topics

- Housing and neighborhoods – expanding the Great Neighborhoods discussion and policies
- Additional discussion and policies that address our aging population
- Downtown items
- Incorporating LRTP / Mobility Plan recommendations



2050 LRTP Update

- Meet federal requirements
- Reflect recent changes
- Integrate land use and transportation decisions
- Framework for future needs
- Prioritize transportation investments



Significant Transportation Changes

**South
Beltway
(NE-2)**

**E-Bikes and
Scooters**

**Funding
Growth**

**Federal
Admin/Policy
Shifts**

**Return to
Work**

**Driving
Behaviors**

Roundabouts

**Safety Study
and Strategy**

**Major
Construction
Projects**

**Lincoln On
the Move**

Federal Planning Requirements

Section 23 CFR 450.324

**5 years
Update**

**20-year
Planning**

**Partner and
Stakeholders**

**Public
Involvement**

**Multimodal
Evaluation**

**Performance-
based Plan**

**Fiscally
constrained
Plan**

**Mitigation
Strategies**

Positive Outcomes Since Last Update - Grants

**Multimodal
Transportation
Center**

**Lincoln Vision
Zero Action
Plan**

**33rd and
Cornhusker
Intersection**

**Downtown
Bike Network
Design**

**Rock Island
Trail Widening
and Underpass**

**Fletcher Road
Reconstruction
84th St - 148th St**

**Electric
Charging
Stations**

**Transit
Education
Program,
Aging Partners**

LRTP Vision

The vision for transportation in Lincoln and Lancaster County is a safe, efficient, and sustainable system that expands mobility choices, strengthens community connections, and enhances quality of life and economic vitality.



LRTP Goals



Mobility & System Reliability



Maintenance



Livability & Travel Choice:



Economic Vitality



Safety & Security



Economic Vitality



Funding & Cost Effectiveness



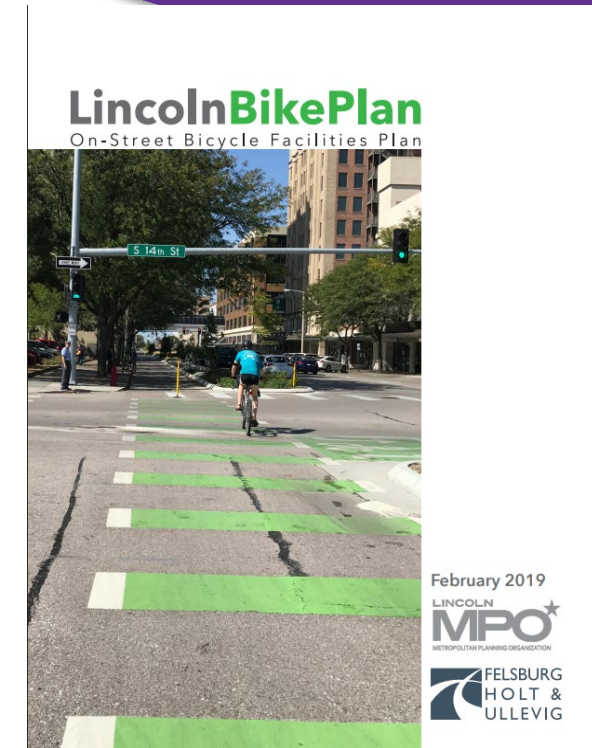
Access & Opportunity

LRTP Focus Groups and Public Input Leads to:

- Projects and Programming
- Policies
- Land Use
- Investments
- Education and/or Enforcement
- Jurisdiction Coordination

Lincoln Mobility Plan

- City-led plan focused on people-centered mobility
- Expands on previous bike/ped plans to include transit, micromobility, and first/last mile connections
- Identifies a connected network of facilities, policies, and programs
- Emphasizes access, safety, and active transportation for all users



Lincoln Mobility Plan Vision

A connected, low-stress city network that makes walking, biking, rolling, and transit safe, convenient, and practical for everyday trips; improving access citywide and supporting a healthy, resilient, and prosperous Lincoln.

What is needed to achieve the vision?

Lincoln Mobility Plan Goals



Safety: A safer multimodal network that supports walking, biking, rolling, and transit access in a manner that eliminates fatal crashes and reduces severe crashes.



Connected Network: A connected citywide network linking people – both in established areas and the growing edges – to goods, services, and amenities such as jobs, schools, services, parks, and transit.



Access & Options: A reliable multimodal network that supports daily travel needs for all members of the Lincoln community through practical travel choices, especially in areas with limited transportation options.



Healthy, Active Lifestyle: A city designed to encourage active transportation and cultivate healthier, more livable neighborhoods



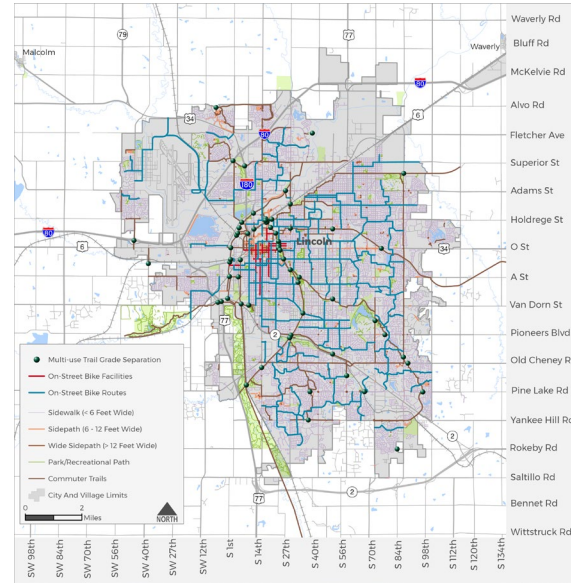
Sustainable Mobility: A transportation system that advances clean technologies, improves air quality, uses resources efficiently, and strengthens long-term resilience.



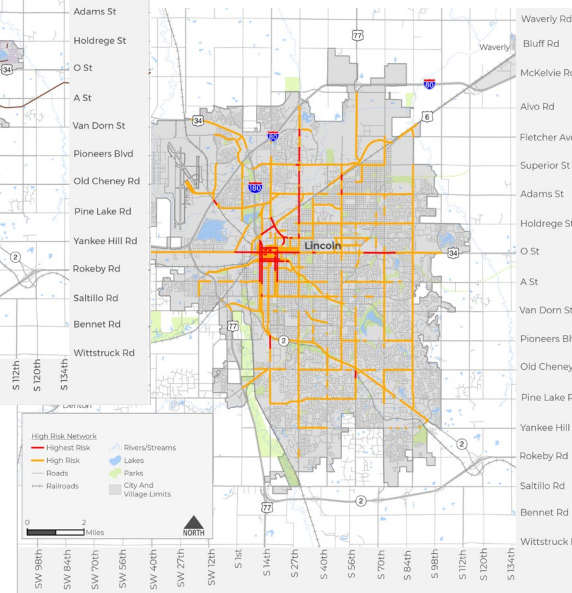
Economic Vitality & Access to Jobs: A multimodal system that builds a stronger economy through improved access to jobs, education, and key destinations, supporting talent attraction and long-term retention.



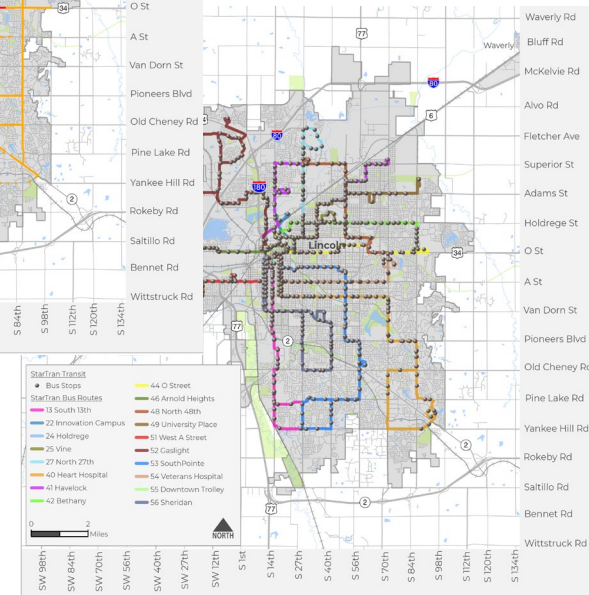
Implementation, Funding & Partnerships: Cost-effective implementation of the Mobility Plan through a coordinated 'dig once' approach, backed by reliable funding and strong partnerships.



Bicycles and Pedestrians



Vulnerable Road Uses



Transit Network

Mobility Plan Public Input Leads to:

- Fewer conflicts and lower stress
- Greater connection between trails, transit, on-street bike network
- Identify mobility nodes and route wayfinding
- Education and rules of the road/trail
- Funding for mobility infrastructure
- Others!

Big Picture Schedule

**FLU / GROWTH TIER MAPS
EXISTING CONDITIONS
BIG PICTURE CONCEPTS**

Phase 1

JULY



**OPEN
HOUSE &
VIRTUAL
OPEN
HOUSE**
OCTOBER

**CONCEPT REFINEMENT
FUTURE SCENARIOS
PROJECT PRIORITIZATION
FINALIZE MOBILITY PLAN**

Phase 2

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**OPEN
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APRIL

**DRAFT REVIEW &
APPROVAL
(COMP PLAN &
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Phase 3

AUGUST



**OPEN
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SEPTEMBER

Update Process

- Completed by end of 2026 (Mobility Plan completion sooner in Spring 2026)
- Planning Commission as steering committee
- Extensive public outreach
 - Open houses
 - Community events
 - Online opportunities
 - Focus groups

Update Process

- Pop-up event
 - September 7, Lincoln Unites
 - September 13, Latino Festival
 - September 20, Gateway Food Truck Festival
 - Sept 27, Holmes lake
 - Oct 26, Belmont Treat Street
 - Oct 30, Hickman Fall Event
- Focus Groups
 - Last week of October





Shaping Lincoln and
Lancaster County's Future

Join us for a one-stop
open house on
transportation,
growth, and
development.

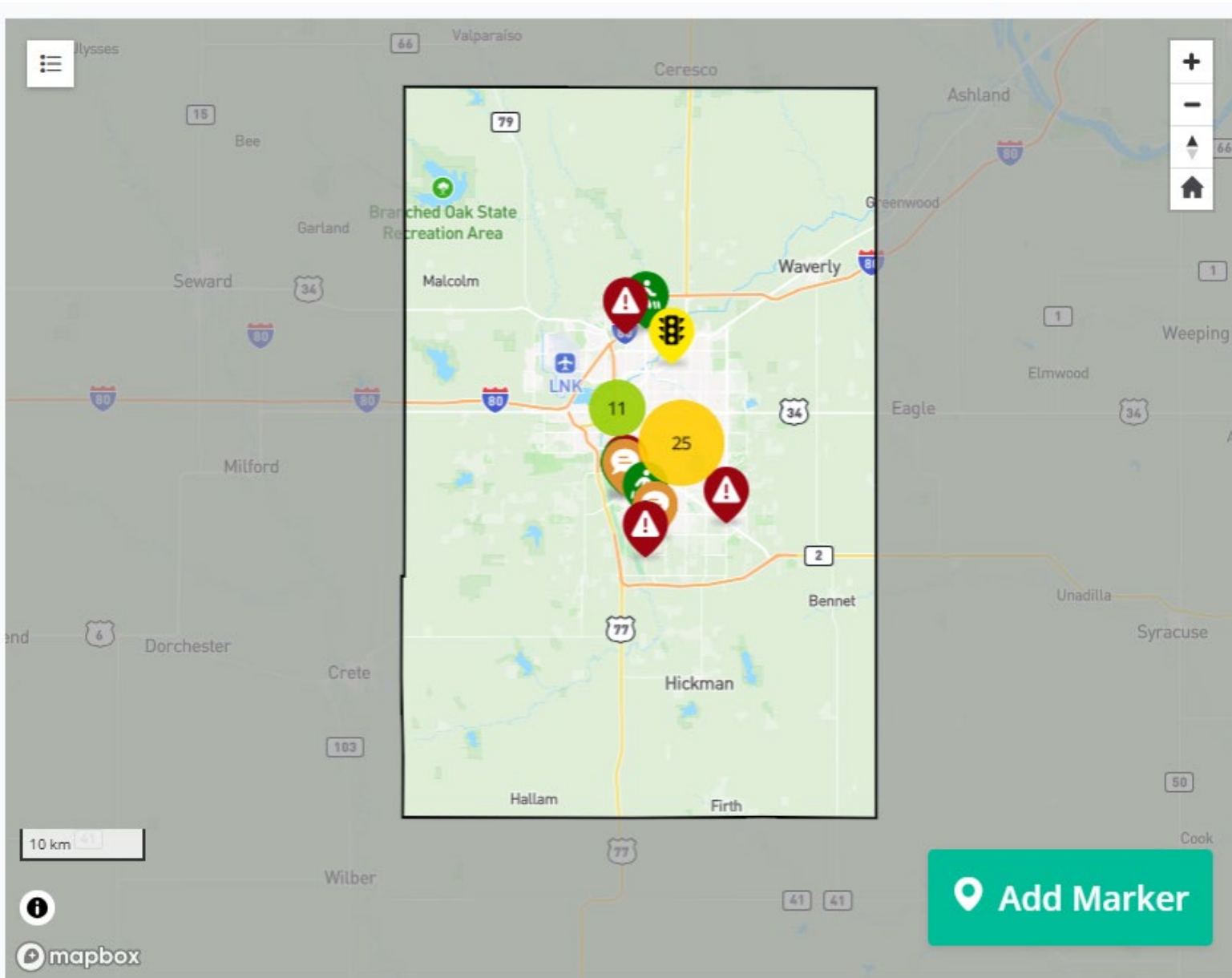
**Learn
Share
PlanForward**



Public Open House

Thursday, October 23
5:30-7:30 PM
Culler Middle School
5201 Vine Street, Lincoln

Light refreshments will be provided!



[Virtual Open House](#)

PLAN forward



lincoln.ne.gov/planforward



LINCOLN
Planning Department

