

July 18, 2001

To: Members of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission:

Several years ago when HWS was hired to study the proposed East Beltway options, we wrote several letters encouraging the development of existing roadways East of Lincoln instead of a beltway. Since a significant amount of money had been invested to consider the proposed options it appeared no one was willing to say we did not need an East Beltway. Thus, after examining all options the City Council voted for the Far East Beltway, which would have the least impact on Stevens Creek and the future expansion of Lincoln.

As a homeowner in the mid-corridor who built on the reliance of the Council vote for the Far East Corridor we would first like to state that it is not fair or proper to vote to move the corridor in closer to Lincoln. We would encourage you as members of the Planning Commission to eliminate the East Beltway or in the alternative to honor the original council vote and place the beltway as far East of Lincoln as possible.

We lived in Houston, Texas for four years and saw first hand the damage a beltway cutting through a city causes; increased crime and pollution. Many of the same damaging effects created by a beltway bisecting a city can be observed in Omaha. When Lincoln's growth to the south crossed Highway 2, expansion grew 4 miles to Pine Lake road within a few years. Once Lincoln's growth to the East crosses 84<sup>th</sup> Street the expansion will rapidly go to 148th street, a similar distance.

Lincoln is a great community, please do not ruin the beautiful Stevens Creek countryside by dividing the area with a major expressway. Stevens Creek is one of the last untouched potential park and recreation areas near Lincoln. Stevens Creek should be preserved and carefully developed so that the citizen's of Lincoln will be able to enjoy its natural environment without the noise and pollution of a beltway.

The money that has been spent to consider the East Beltway options is insignificant compared to the millions taxpayers will be required to pay to build 10-12 miles of beltway which the truckers have stated they will not even use.

Please consider the statistics of Lincoln's growth and realize the mid-corridor beltway option is too close and too expensive. It is time for neighbors to quit fighting neighbors and for politics to step aside. Please do the right thing.

Thank you for your consideration of this opinion.

Sincerely,

Ryan and Mary Jensen  
The Wheatlands

**Exhibit 23**  
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