

July 18, 2001

Planning Commissioner
Lincoln-Lancaster County
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: Beltway

We have heard the word *historic* so many times recently that it seems everything that exists is historic in some way and needs to be protected. Therefore, lets just always keep everything the same as it was 150 years ago. OK? Historic farms--there are many on all these corridors.

When I look at the DEIS in regards to the Stevens Creek Stock Farm, if the measurements were all taken from the old stone house to EM-1 and to EF-1, the distance is almost the same. I wonder how and why they now are satisfied. The things they have cried about at meetings concerning the Stock Farm will still all be there, only now to the west instead of to the east. Perhaps the only possible difference could be is that their non-historic properties to the south of the Stock Farm on EF-1 are no longer threatened.

The Sartore house on 148th Street claims that a 4-lane highway over 1/2 mile away would harm that site, when in fact 148th Street, a 2-lane blacktop is approximately 200 feet from their front door now. Also, explain to me please the historic value of a site on 148th Street that has 2 commercial businesses operating out of it. At this time I would ask you to please close 148th Street. Even the Forest Brook Farm on Van Dorn Street sits less than 75 feet from the road. Please close Van Dorn and any other county roads near historic sites. Ridiculous? Right? My point being is how would a beltway 1/4 to 1/2 mile away affect them any more than what is already in place. Many of these sites on all these corridors are virtually on main roads that are paved or most likely will be paved in the next 20 years.

While we've heard that people will be trying to add adjoining land to the existing historic sites, please tell me the significance of this. Whose dirt is older? Does bare ground, pasture, prairie or crops know the difference of a highway or a house across the fence from it?

I believe that when my ancestors settled along Stevens Creek along with a few other families many years ago, a beltway was not really a concern. They settled there and were able to exist through hard work, help from their families and neighbors and friends. Most of the kids married into these families and that is how the community started and grew and why many of the residents are related. I think that if these people were to see us now they would be ashamed and embarrassed to see family members using what they worked and died for against other family members. To see property and money valued much more

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than family and friends and neighbors, the very reason any and all made it here. Perhaps these people along EF-1 don't really have the passion and love for historic farms as they portray. If they did, how could they simply push it off 1 mile west on someone else's historic sites and act like everything is fine?

I spent the first years of my life growing up living on the Stock Farm and working for and with my uncle in the following years. Now it appears they have used that farm against us. Now the family is split, as well as the community; not by the beltway project, but by the people who live there. This project, like any other gives us opportunities; opportunities to show what we are and are not. They have shown us all what they are by their actions. (Crying at meetings and giving us the impression their homes were to be lost when in reality the beltway was not going to touch that historic property, much less their homes, etc.)

When money and property become so important to someone, that they forget to be thankful, and forget to appreciate the important things in this world, they really have nothing because you can't take land and money with you.

As Co-Chairman of the Stevens Creek Preservation Association we ask you to please look at the other alternatives to the beltway on the east side of Lincoln as described in the DEIS before a permanent decision is made. For the good of this entire historic community and the city of Lincoln, too, other options offer greater gain in the future. Lets preserve the natural beauty of Stevens Creek while we still have that choice. Stevens Creek is a neat place, a place where Lincoln started, a place that needs to be protected, not cut in half by a freeway. By using some other alternatives besides a beltway, we can all be better served in the future. I believe Lincoln and all the residents in the Stevens Creek watershed can get what they want and need without a beltway splitting the area.

Thank you.



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July 3, 2001

Letter to Editor
Lincoln Journal Star
P.O. Box 81689
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Re: Beltway Blitz

In seven years of meetings, studies, and recommendations, never were any historic sites in danger of being moved or destroyed. Yet we have been subjected to a seemingly endless number of Stevens Creek Stock Farm family members who have whined, cried, and lead a lot of us to believe that their historic farm and houses could be destroyed or damaged; when in fact the mid corridor is actually closer or as close to their homes as the EF 1 alignment would have been. Why then, are they "satisfied with this choice"? Perhaps because this mid corridor does not threaten their Non-historic properties south of the Stevens Creek Stock Farm as EF 1 did.

Mayor Wesely said: "Common Sense - Logical Choice". Define this please! Lincoln's Comprehensive Plan has called for an emerald necklace park up and down Stevens Creek. Who would design a park that is crossed twice with a freeway? Could any environmentally conscious person support such a project?

While we still have a choice, let's try to look forward and not boldly flounder into a project that creates a huge taxpayer expense in the future. Consider not only the cost of overpasses/underpasses or crossings in the park because of the freeway, but also the aesthetics of a park being at least partially destroyed by a freeway running through or parallel to it.

As Co-Chairman of the Stevens Creek Preservation Association, I am asking this question. When this natural area is compromised, where do we find another? Why not use other alternatives to the beltway on the east side of Lincoln? Why not keep Stevens Creek as it is for a park and incorporate the Stevens Creek Stock Farm into the park plan? That would be a great way to preserve that historic site and watershed for everyone, forever in the future!!

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