

To: Planning Commission  
From: Rodger and Janelle Johnson  
1320 Cessna Lane  
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We are presenting our written testimony to express our strong opposition to corridor EC-1 for the east beltway. On June 27, 1997, EC-1 corridor was removed by the vote of the Super Commons. Many residents took that action as a final decision on this corridor and made plans for new homes and remodeling projects to existing homes. We have followed the study as it progressed, but we had been assured that nothing in the study indicated that the city/county officials would change their minds that EC-1 was the least favorable corridor for the East Beltway. With that information, we decided to proceed with our own remodeling project to meet the needs of our retirement years. Because the study has taken so long we need to restate our opposition for the following reasons:

- The study time period has taken so long that earlier numbers are outdated. Many assumptions in the study were based on an old comprehensive plan and did not include urbanization of Stevens Creek.
- EC-1 is located too close to Lincoln to plan for future development and expansion of the city. A beltway will not solve Lincoln's inner city traffic problems.
- The number of homes in EC-1 within a quarter mile of the beltway is much higher than other corridors. The study lists 157 homes as compared to 68 in EM-1 and 92 in EF-1. We also found that, 157, is an incomplete count of homes affected in EC-1. Only a small number of homes in Sky Ranch Acres were included in that count. The count should include all 30 homes because we share a common water and sewer system, one access road, and common property, which would all be affected by the beltway. More information is included in final two paragraphs.
- The impact of noise, visual disruption and property resale value would be greater in EC-1 because of the numbers of developments and homes affected.
- There are two flood control ponds with expected completion date of 2002 planned by NRD in EC-1. The largest is a 25-acre pond located directly behind Sky Ranch Acres. This pond lies directly in the path of EC-1 corridor and would make it more expensive to build over or around it. When we asked about building around the pond, we were told they would move it or divert the water, when they build the road. You cannot move a flood control pond without losing the effectiveness of its purpose.
- EC-1 would be more expensive to build because two crossings are needed for the hiker/biker trails and major bridges crossing Stevens Creek.
- There are major problems with south connection to south beltway and the north connection to the interstate. There is also a greater impact to farmland at the north end of the connection of EC-1 to HWY 6 and Interstate 80.

We live in a development that has been in existence for over 25 years. Our community includes 30 homes with nearly 100 residents. Our association owns and maintains a community sewage treatment

**Exhibit 39**  
**July 18, 2001**

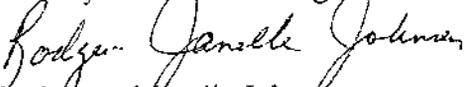
system and two wells for water. EC-1 would most likely have an adverse affect on our infrastructure as well as the three-acre spring fed pond that is part of our common area. Sky Ranch Acres is located adjacent to the Stevens Creek watershed. We can be surrounded on three sides by water when we have a heavy rainfall, so to build a beltway at this location could adversely affect our development by runoff and changes in drainage patterns. The natural environment, which we value, would be severely degraded or essentially destroyed. Our community contains many mature trees in their natural setting along a small tributary of Stevens Creek, which attract waterfowl, deer and other wildlife that provide considerable enjoyment for our residents. When I attended the public hearing held at the Berean Church, I found that none of the information concerning water, sewer or drainage in Sky Ranch Acres was included in the Environmental Impact Study. Inaccurate and incomplete information can affect the projected cost, projected impact of disruption, as well as projected benefit to the community.

There are two more points that we think need to be considered. Even though people who are losing land in the south beltway are not very supportive, there is not the outcry of people in numbers who oppose the south beltway as there is to the East Beltway. The south beltway has a defined purpose and a foreseen need that will be accomplished with the construction of this road, the reduction of truck and other traffic off of Hwy 2.

There has not been a clearly defined purpose for the east beltway. The people in Lincoln have wishful thoughts that it will solve the inner traffic problems. People go into Lincoln to conduct business or shop, and a beltway will not help anyone to get to any points in the inner city or from the south to the north. Also people think that a beltway is the only way to get to Omaha or to some point east of Lincoln faster. Is the ability to drive 65mph, the main consideration in building roads and handling traffic? An east beltway has been studied for the last seven years, in fact talked about for 30 years, yet there is still no clear defined purpose and plan. People want a clearly defined plan for growth, traffic needs and provisions, which does not necessarily involve a beltway.

Please consider very carefully if an east beltway is necessary or can traffic be handled by improving existing roads, thereby giving people a greater number of options for safe travel. If an east beltway is deemed necessary, we believe it would serve the future needs of the greater community of Lincoln, if it is located beyond the Stevens Creek watershed. Because of the number of homes and communities affected, cost effectiveness and other considerations listed, EC-1 is the least favorable of the East Beltway options.

Thank you for considering our comments.

  
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