

Lincoln-Lancaster County 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan

Prepared by: Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department and Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization

## Director's Note

Dear Community,

The City of Lincoln, Lancaster County and the Lincoln MPO are updating the Comprehensive Plan and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Federal regulations require these plans be updated every five years. This update will be adopted by the end of calendar year 2011 and we will extend the planning horizon to the year 2040.

With this newsletter, we bring you quarterly news on this update process. We also provide opportunities for you to be involved in the process affecting the future of our community. Your participation is strongly encouraged as it is essential for good decision-making.

Sincerely,

Marvin Krout, Director  
Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department

## Community Meetings

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department and the Lincoln MPO welcome the community to join us for two public meetings to share ideas on the future of the community.

The Complete Streets public meeting in June and the Living & Working in 2040 Workshop in July are designed to envision the future of the community with respect to transportation, population, employment, and housing. The workshops will be an opportunity for the public to interact with experts in these areas and to hear about global, national, regional and local trends that will affect our community's future.

The public is encouraged to offer their suggestions and reactions to these topics on our website at [LPlan2040.lincoln.ne.gov](http://LPlan2040.lincoln.ne.gov).

## Can't make it to the meetings?

View the presentations afterwards and give us your feedback at [LPlan2040.lincoln.ne.gov](http://LPlan2040.lincoln.ne.gov). And see page 4 for a variety of other ways to give us your feedback.

## Upcoming Events

### Complete Streets Public Meeting

- Tuesday, June 8
- 2:30-4 pm
- County/City Building, Council Chambers

### Living & Working in 2040

- Tuesday, July 13
- 7-9 pm
- County/City Building, Council Chambers

### "Big Ideas" Virtual Town Hall

- Watch for our Virtual Town Hall starting mid-July.

### Plan-It-Yourself Workshop

- August 2010
- More Details to Follow



# What is a Comprehensive Plan and What does it Involve?

A Comprehensive Plan is a community's common vision of what it wants to be like in the future. Such plans typically look twenty to thirty years in the future. Comprehensive plans deal mostly with the physical characteristics of a city or a county. They contain the vision and plans a community needs to guide future changes.

These plans illustrate where tomorrow's homes, schools, parks, shopping areas, employment centers, and other uses will be located and how they will develop. They often show natural and environmentally sensitive areas a community may want to preserve and enhance for its children and grandchildren. LPlan 2040 is a plan for Lincoln and Lancaster County that will look out 30 years into the future.

A Comp Plan typically includes plans and policies for the following:

- Goals for the future
- Future land use patterns
- Housing needs
- Transportation improvements
- Schools and parks
- Community facilities
- Public utilities

## History of Comprehensive Planning in Lincoln

The City of Lincoln first adopted a Comprehensive Plan in **1952**.

The City of Lincoln and Lancaster County have shared a Comprehensive Plan since **1961**.

The Lincoln MPO was established in **1974** to review transportation issues and develop transportation plans and programs for the metropolitan area.

## LPlan Advisory Committee (LPAC) Oversees Plan

The process to create LPlan 2040 is being guided by a citizen advisory committee consisting of members from the City-County Planning Commission and other community representatives. The committee will make recommendations to the Mayor and Planning Commission.

The transportation element will be guided by the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO Technical Committee, comprised of staff from the City, County and State, will provide technical support and guidance, while the MPO Officials Committee will adopt the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Following the recommendations of the LPlan Advisory Committee, a draft Comprehensive Plan and LRTP will have formal public hearings before the Planning Commission, City Council and County Board for adoption. The LRTP will then be presented to the MPO Officials Committee for adoption and will need to be accepted by State and the Federal agencies.

## LPlan Advisory Committee Members (LPAC)

Carolyn Chamberlin, Business/Health  
Michael Cornelius, Planning Commission  
Scott Ernstmeyer, Education  
Dick Esseks, Planning Commission  
Wendy Francis, Planning Commission  
Leirion Gaylor Baird, Planning Commission  
David Grimes, Farmer  
Randy Harre, Business  
Tom Huston, Attorney  
Bill Langdon, Commercial Realty  
Roger Larson, Planning Commission  
Jeanelle Lust, Planning Commission  
Patte Newman, Neighborhood  
Jim Partington, Planning Commission  
Mike Rezac, Builder  
Dennis Scheer, Design  
Cecil Steward, Sustainability  
Lynn Sunderman, Planning Commission  
Tommy Taylor, Planning Commission  
Donna Woudenberg, Natural Resources

### LPAC Meeting Dates

#### First Meeting

Wednesday, June 23, 12-2 pm  
County/City Building, Room 113

#### Future Meetings

Every other Wednesday beginning July 14  
11 am - 12:45 pm  
County/City Building, Room 113

# How do you Make a Plan?

Developing a Comprehensive Plan and a Long Range Transportation Plan requires a tremendous effort. The City-County Planning Department is guiding the process in stages together with the LPlan Advisory Committee.

## 1 The first stage: “Background”

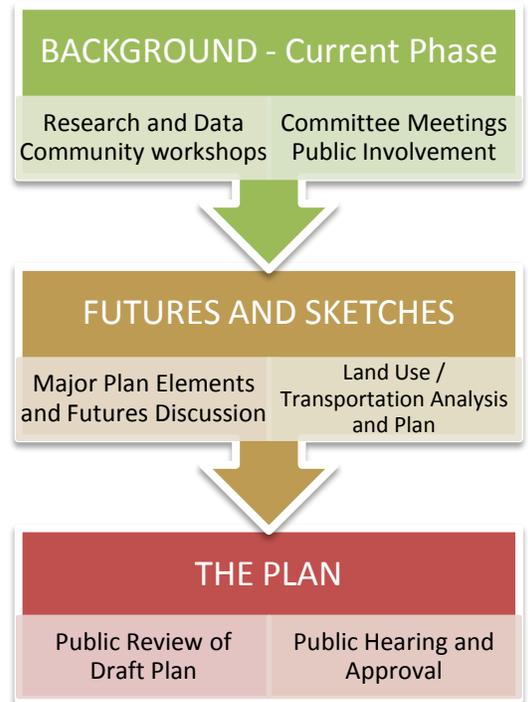
This stage aims at gaining a common understanding of the internal and external forces that will form the foundation for both the potential and constraints that the community will face in the future.

## 2 The second stage: “Sketches and Futures”

At this stage, the community and advisory committee will provide input on alternative development scenarios, which will be analyzed to address issues such as transportation, utilities, land use, environment and growth. Those scenario sketches and analyses will form the basis for decisions about future land-use, growth and the development of a draft Comprehensive Plan and LRTP.

## 3 The third stage: “The Plan”

At this stage, the draft plan is available for review followed by public hearings as part of the formal adoption process by appointed and elected officials.



## What is the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization?

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a transportation policy-making body made up of representatives from the local government and transportation agencies that have authority and responsibilities in the Metropolitan Planning Area.

In Lincoln and Lancaster County, this is the Lincoln MPO. The MPO reviews transportation issues and develops transportation plans and programs for the metropolitan area.

The MPO was created under the 1973 Federal Aid Highway Act mandating that all urbanized areas having a population of 50,000 or more designate a single agency to administer federal transportation funds. MPO's were created to ensure that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects were based on a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive (3-C) transportation planning process.

The primary role of the Lincoln MPO includes the development of a Long Range Transportation Plan, a shorter range Transportation Improvement Program and an annual Unified Planning Work Program.

## What is a Long Range Transportation Plan and What Does it Involve?

A Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) fulfills the requirements of the Federal transportation planning process by describing the transportation needs of a community for at least 20 years. The LRTP is guided by the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The plan must consider the full complement of transportation modes – roads, bicycles, pedestrians, trails, transit, parking, railroads and airports. In Lincoln and Lancaster County, the LRTP not only fulfills the federal requirements, but also serves as the transportation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.

The LRTP describes an evolving local transportation system built upon the Comprehensive Plan vision. The plan presents the transportation improvements that will be needed today and in the future to help move people and goods about the community.

The LRTP typically plans for and includes the following:

- Transportation Principles and Objectives
- Pedestrian System
- Bicycles and Trails
- Public Transit
- Parking
- Urban and Rural Roads
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Systems Management
- Railroads
- Airports
- Goods and Freight Movement
- Financial Analysis

# Community Survey Highlights Lincoln Residents' Choices

A scientific phone survey has been conducted to get input from the community on their priorities for the future. During the month of June, we would also like to seek your input by offering the same survey online. Please visit our website to give us your feedback.

## Here are some highlights from the scientific survey:

- 90% of the area residents agreed that there are plenty of housing choices, by type and size and 79% agreed to this by price range.
- Nearly three in four area residents (73%) agreed that development and redevelopment in Downtown Lincoln should be a focus.
- More than three-fifths (63%) felt the

city should provide new public infrastructure in multiple directions to serve growth demands, rather than in just one direction.

## The two highest rated Planning Objectives and Priorities were:

1. Invest in clean alternative sources of energy.
2. Develop and maintain a system of parks and recreational facilities across the city.

*You can still take part in the survey on our website: [lplan2040.lincoln.ne.gov](http://lplan2040.lincoln.ne.gov).*

## Give Us Your Big Ideas! Coming in July ...

Big Ideas is a visionary brainstorming exercise for Lincoln and Lancaster County 30 years into the future. No idea is too far-fetched. Tap into your creative energy to give us your unexpected, extraordinary or far-reaching ideas!



Watch for our Big Ideas "Virtual Town Hall" starting mid-July! You'll be able to:

- Give us your Big Ideas
- Tell us what you like about Big Ideas that are submitted, and what improvements you'd make
- Vote on your favorite Big Ideas!

*Share your Ideas at our "Virtual Town Hall" at [lplan2040.org](http://lplan2040.org) beginning mid-July!*

## How can you get involved?

The public has many options to get involved in the preparation of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the LRTP. The process is for the benefit of the community, so your participation is greatly valued. To get involved in the process you have the following options:

- Visit our website : [lplan2040.lincoln.ne.gov](http://lplan2040.lincoln.ne.gov)
- Find us on Facebook: LPlan2040
- Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/LPlan2040>
- Starting mid-July, give us your ideas through the 'Virtual Town Hall' at our website or [LPlan2040.org](http://LPlan2040.org)
- Sign up on our website for email notifications and newsletters
- Invite us to discuss LPlan 2040 with your organization
- Join us for public meetings and workshops throughout the process
- Email the Planning Department at [plan@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:plan@lincoln.ne.gov)
- Submit written comments to the Planning Department or call us at 441-7491.

## For More Information, Contact



Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department  
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Lincoln, NE 68508

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