CITY OF LINCOLN
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MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER
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Lincoln-Lancaster County
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Lincoln City Council
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Council Members/Commissioners:

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Board of Health supports the vision and goals set forth in the 2040 Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan. It especially appreciates that the Plan emphasizes a "Healthy Community" Vision. The Board of Health has long recognized that interaction between people and their environments is a major public health issue. An environment that encourages healthy transportation alternatives, including walking and bicycling, is an environment where there is increased physical activity with less obesity and chronic disease, where walking and bicycling are accepted and safe ways to reach destinations, and where the air is cleaner with less vehicle traffic.

Achieving the goals of the Healthy Community Vision should be a high priority and is supported by the Board of Health. These goals include urban design that encourages walking and bicycling to improve physical and environmental health; neighborhoods that are friendly to bicycles and to all pedestrians including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities; redevelopment projects that consider the use of existing infrastructure and buildings in their design; and mixed use communities that allow people to live, work and shop within walking and biking distance.

To accomplish these goals, the Board of Health supports the following:

- Policies and efforts to create a healthy community where active living and a balanced transportation system allow for more choices to bike and walk to destinations.
- A Complete Streets approach to transportation projects and development of a formal policy to support this approach.
- Continued development of the multi-use trail system, construction of sidewalks on both sides of streets, and adequate maintenance and rehabilitation of trails and sidewalks.

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- The "Needs Based Plan" that more fully funds pedestrian, bicycle, and transit needs. The current amount of funding for sidewalk rehabilitation of $500,000 per year (the amount called for in the Financially Constrained Plan) is not adequate to meet the needs of the community for improving pedestrian activity.
- A dedicated funding program at $125,000 annually for a pedestrian and bicycle capital program.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely,

Karla Lester, M.D.

Karla Lester, MD
President
Lincoln-Lancaster County
Board of Health