



Human Services Administration
1115 K Street, Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 441-4944
(402) 441-6805 Fax
www.lincoln.ne.gov

October 29, 2010

Marvin Krout, Director
Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning
555 South 10th Street Suite 213
Lincoln, NE 68508

Kit Boesch Human Services Administrator
kboesch@lancaster.ne.gov

RE: Lincoln's growth plan - options

Dear Marvin:

The Lincoln Journal Star gave a brief overview of three options presented for growth in Lincoln. One option was growth to the east, one to the south, and a third to grow the city's center. It is my understanding the first phase of that growth is transportation. Then the continued plan will, of course, be built around this.

I have two questions I generally ask when anyone begins to make significant plans for change:

1. How will this affect the low income families in the area being changed?
2. How will this affect children?

I think I am safe in saying that currently several of your "city center zip codes" are occupied by some of our poorest residents. In whatever growth plan gets adopted, I would encourage you to ask the question, what happens to the current households in our "pockets of poverty" neighborhoods. Where do they go? How do we meet their needs, as they too are stakeholders in the growth process.

Sometimes, planners get caught up in the development phase based on the increase in revenue it can provide. Obviously, this is important. However, growth planning is also about sidewalks, green space, and safe areas for children to walk, play, and get to school. So as the planning goes forward, please repeatedly ask the question, how will these decisions affect the children of Lincoln.

I am excited about change. Lincoln's growth is a testament to the quality of our city and the people who live here...all people! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kit Boesch

Human Services Administrator

cc: Bernie Heier, Lancaster County Board
Mayor Chris Beutler
Pastor Tom Barber, People's City Mission
Homeless Coalition

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