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Welcome to Lincoln!

Are you having guests for the holidays? Time to clean & fix-up a bit to welcome them! Like you, the City of Lincoln wants to welcome guests and visitors.

Entryway Improvements: In October, Mayor Chris Beutler and other local leaders dedicated entryway corridor improvements that create a "welcoming first impression" to visitors coming to Lincoln along the route from the Airport to downtown. The improvements include illuminated district markers, banners and public art as well as nearly 800 trees, 50,000 perennials and native grasses. The City also invested about \$4.2 million in pavement repair.

This project was a public-private partnership, with more than \$1.6 million donated by visionary supporters in the private sector who recognized the need to improve Lincoln's first impression. The total project cost was about \$4.2 million. That included about \$3 million in streetscape enhancements funded through a public-private partnership and about \$1.2 million for an endowment to maintain the improvements. The streetscape improvements include about \$2.6 million in funding from the City, Airport Authority and Lancaster County. The remainder of the streetscape funding and all of the endowment came from 18 private sector donors.

N Street Protected Bikeway: Construction is nearing completion for the **N Street Protected Bikeway**, which was identified in the 2005 City of Lincoln *Downtown Master Plan* and the 2012 *Downtown Master Plan Update* as the completion of the "last mile" of bike trails through Downtown Lincoln. In addition, the *Plan Update* identified the **N Street Protected Bikeway** as a priority project partly because it connects two major trails — the Jamaica Trail at approximately 7th & N Street and the Billy Wolfe Trail at 22nd & N Street.

The two-way bikeway is the Nebraska's first protected bikeway. Because it's a relatively new concept, the City is preparing an educational video about the bikeway — everything from how traffic signals work to where the parking meters are now located. See the video online at: lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: **N Street**

As a protected bikeway, this project includes bicycle signalization and striping, and separation from traffic by bioswales, raised medians



Left & Above: Entryway improvements on Cornhusker — even more attractive at night!

Below: N St. Protected Bikeway between 14th & 15th

and tubular markers. The bikeway is expected to be open by the week of November 30th. A grand opening celebration is tentatively planned for April 23, 2016.

North 27th Street Medians: It took longer than expected, but the re-planting of the North 27th Street medians is completed. Using the last bit of Tax Increment Funds (TIF) from the old North 27th Street Redevelopment Area, the old plantings were removed. The planting beds were excavated and re-graded with new soil, a new irrigation system was installed and thousands of plants were set. Now the plants will put down roots and rest until Spring.

Right now, the recent plantings don't look like much — the plants are mostly dormant for the winter. But next spring, visitors and locals will welcome and be welcomed by Lincoln's streetscapes.



A GLIMPSE AT THE FUTURE

Thinking about what will happen ten or fifteen years in the future is difficult for individuals. It is difficult & complicated, but equally necessary, for local government.

33rd & Cornhusker Highway Study:

In June 2015, the Lincoln/Lancaster County Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) began a study of transportation in the 33rd Street and Cornhusker Highway area. Their **Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study** will identify and evaluate potential transportation improvements, especially along the rail corridor between N. 27th and N. 48th streets. Potential improvements are intended to:

- Improve safety along the rail corridor by eliminating or reducing the potential conflict points between trains and other transportation modes (vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists);
- Reduce delay for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists crossing the rail corridor;
- Accommodate existing and future traffic (Year 2040) to reduce congestion along roadways crossing the rail corridor;
- Improve mobility across the rail corridor in north Lincoln; and
- Improve multi-modal connectivity in north Lincoln for vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, and bus transit.

The RTSD and the design team, led by Schemmer, have engaged the public and various agencies to identify concerns, issues, and existing conditions in the study area. Based on comments received and data collected, conceptual roadway alignments are being developed, analyzed, and refined.

The public and agencies will have an opportunity to comment again before the **PEL Study** is finished.

Once the **PEL Study** is completed, future project phases include preliminary design & environmental analysis, final design, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocations, and finally, construction. Altogether, these future phases may take 10 to 15 years. See www.33rdcornhusker.com.

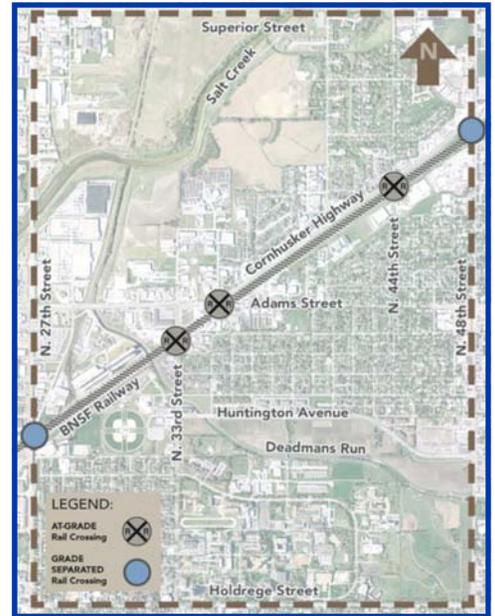
South Haymarket Plan:

In mid-November, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission approved the **South Haymarket Neighborhood Plan** as an amendment to the **Lincoln Downtown Master Plan**. City Council will now be considering the **South Haymarket Plan**, with a public hearing on December 21st.

If approved, the plan will provide a framework for development of the area bounded by 4th, 10th, O and G streets. While the area has seen some successful redevelopment projects (Color Court, Dairy House, Schwarz Paper Building, Lumberworks parking garage and the 8|N Lofts), it has great potential for future development. With the area's proximity to Downtown and thriving West Haymarket, South Haymarket is poised for significant change.

"The rapid pace of building and development in the West Haymarket has been phenomenal for Lincoln," said Mayor Chris Beutler. "That momentum has already moved south of O Street with several projects. The interest in the market is strong, and new housing, new offices and new jobs are the best possible future for the South Haymarket area."

The South Haymarket Neighborhood Plan is available at lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: **South Haymarket**.



Above: Boundaries of the RTSD's **PEL Study**

Below: Boundaries of the **South Haymarket Neighborhood Plan**



P STREET—PHASE 2

In mid-November, the public was invited to a presentation and open house on the second phase of the **P Street Corridor Project** from Centennial Mall to Antelope Valley Parkway. Attendees heard about the history of the project, the proposed design and the construction schedule.

The conceptual design of the P Street Corridor was part of the Downtown Master Planning process in 2012 and 2013. Phase 1 of the project, from 11th St. to Centennial Mall, was completed earlier this year. The Clark Enersen Partners were hired to complete the design and construction drawings for Phase 2. In addition to street and sidewalk improvements, the design for Phase 2 includes vehicular and bike parking, seating and landscaping. Construction will begin this coming spring and will be completed in the fall of 2016.

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TIMELY TIDBITS

City Seeks Proposals

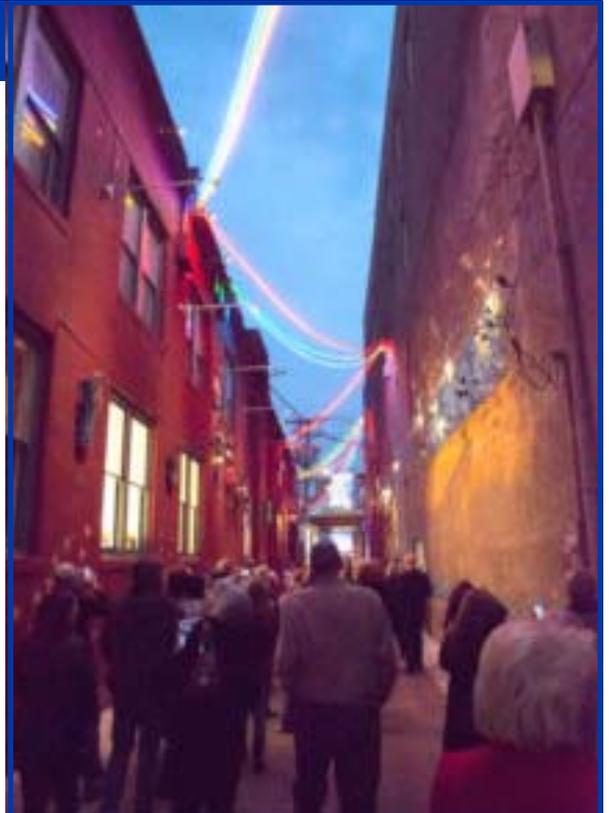
There are more development opportunities in the Haymarket area! The City of Lincoln has just issued Invitations for Redevelopment Proposals (or IFRP's) for two sites: **South Haymarket-Lumberworks Garage Liner Building** and **West Haymarket-Block 4**. Both sites were assembled by the Joint Public Agency that was formed to develop the Pinnacle Bank Arena. The sites are located on either side of Canopy Street, between N and O Street and are zoned B-4 for mixed-use development. Developers are encouraged to submit proposals to the City Urban Development Department by mid-January for Lumberworks and by mid-February for Block 4. See the IFRP's at lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: **IFRP**.

Lincoln's ReStore

Lincoln/Lancaster County Habitat for Humanity (L/LCHFH) has a new face behind the scenes. Josh Hanshaw joined the Lincoln Habitat for Humanity in October as the executive director overseeing operations and the local **ReStore**.

ReStores are nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centers that sell new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, building materials and more to the public at a fraction of the retail price. **ReStores** are independently-owned and operated by local Habitat for Humanity organizations. Proceeds from Lincoln's **ReStore** provide funding for L/LCHFH's mission.

The Lincoln **ReStore** just celebrated its one year anniversary in August and has already diverted 177 tons of usable appliances and building materials from landfills. "The ReStore is a wonderful community resource and we're proud of our first year," says Hanshaw. "The ReStore gives the general public the opportunity to purchase excellent home goods at magnificent prices. Proceeds from the store have helped further fund our mission of building safe, affordable homes for families in need."



About 160 people helped celebrate the grand opening of Gallery Alley in early November. The alley, south of P Street between the Burkholder Project and the Creamery Building, has served as a pedestrian connection to Haymarket for years. Now, with new gallery art and lighting installations, the alley is a safe, playful and welcoming space.

New Legislation, New Workforce Board

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) has been replaced by the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA). The transition in programming under WIOA includes major emphasis on work-based training and service to out-of-school youth. Mayor Chris Beutler has appointed a new Workforce Development Board to lead the transition. Members of the board are:

Rod Armstrong	<i>AIM</i>
Jessica Bergmann	<i>Vocational Rehabilitation</i>
Tim Bornemeier	<i>World's Foremost Bank</i>
Cheryl Brandenburgh	<i>Black Hills Energy</i>
Angela Caldwell	<i>Manpower</i>
Debra Cremeens-Risinger	<i>US DOL-Apprenticeship</i>
Jane Goertzen	<i>Crete Carrier Corporation</i>
Pat Haverly	<i>Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development</i>
Leon Holloway	<i>Duncan Aviation</i>
Paul Illich	<i>Southeast Community College</i>
Ron Kaminski	<i>Laborers Union # 1140</i>
John Markey	<i>IBEW #265</i>
Rich Marshall	<i>North Central States Reg. Council of Carpenters</i>
Amy Ostermeyer	<i>Bryan Health</i>
Julie Panko Haberman	<i>Lincoln Electric System</i>
Joanne Pickrel	<i>Goodwill Industries</i>
Sherla Post	<i>Cornhusker Bank</i>
Cherisa Price-Wells	<i>ResCare Workforce Services</i>
Vi See	<i>Community Action-Lancaster & Saunders</i>
Randy Sterns	<i>IBM-Kenexa</i>
Carol Swigart	<i>Hillaero Modification Center</i>
Gary Targoff	<i>Nebraska Educational Telecommunications</i>
Gary Unrein	<i>IBEW #1526</i>
Brittany Urias	<i>NDOL-Employment Services/Visual Unit</i>
Douglas Weinberg	<i>DHHS, Division of Children & Family Services</i>
Sue White	<i>SourceOne, Inc.</i>
Sherri Wimes	<i>Ameritas Life Insurance</i>

Learn more at lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: **workforce**

New UDD Staff

In October, Urban Development Department welcomed two new co-workers, both in the Housing & Real Estate Division.

Justin Hertzler, the new Right of Way Specialist, is a Lincoln native. As a dad and a college student pursuing a business management degree, he doesn't have much spare time. When he can, he also enjoys sports and cars.



Loren Roberts, the new Housing Rehab Specialist, originally came from Puebla, Mexico, to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She and her family love Lincoln –well, maybe not the winter cold! Loren has a business degree and five years of experience working for Lincoln's Commission on Human Rights.



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SURPLUS PROCESS

The City of Lincoln, for the purpose of administering local government, owns over 900 parcels of land. Occasionally, some of those parcels may no longer be needed for public use. To better determine whether a particular parcel is or is not still needed for public use, many City departments and agencies need to review a surplus proposal. Urban Development Department has recently been refining a new inter-departmental tool to identify City-owned properties that can be declared potentially surplus. (See box, right.)

Once a property has been identified as surplus, Urban Development Department's top priority is to make sure the surplus process and sale is transparent to the public. The public has several opportunities for input and information during the process:

- The Planning Commission holds a public hearing to decide whether declaring the property surplus is in conformance with the City's *Comprehensive Plan*. The Planning Commission makes their recommendation to the City Council based on information presented and public input.
- The City Council holds another public hearing. If they approve the proposed surplus parcel, they adopt a resolution declaring the

parcel to be surplus and authorizing the property to be offered for sale.

- The Urban Development Department gives additional public notice by posting "for sale" signs on the property. We also add the parcel to our online list of surplus properties for sale. See lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: surplus.
- For larger parcels, Urban Development extends the notice to the surrounding neighborhoods through public meetings early in the process.

Potential buyers are first asked to express their interest. Following a defined time period (varies by situation) the potential buyers can make an offer for the surplus parcel. Then Urban Development Department negotiates with the selected buyer. Finally, the negotiated sale contract goes back to the City Council for final approval.

Selling surplus property is really a win-win for the City. Once a property is sold, the City no longer needs to maintain it and the parcel can begin to generate property tax revenue.

2015 was a good year for the sale of surplus City property -- five properties, amounting to 15.45 acres, were sold for a total of \$1,635,000.

Surplus Back Story

What land does the City own and why? That question has been asked periodically over the years. In response, lists have been made and questions answered. As time passed, staff retired and record-keeping systems changed, the question was asked and answered "from scratch" again and again. There had to be a better, more efficient way!

In 2014, Mayor Beutler signed an Administrative Regulation directing the Urban Development Department to *prepare and maintain a Master List* of land parcels owned by the City. The regulation also directed UDD to *establish a procedure for the sale of surplus parcels*.

The Master List, developed by UDD's Real Estate Division, uses data from the County Assessor database and input from other City departments. UDD's GIS Analyst developed an *internal land management system* that includes custom online map interfaces that allow each department access to their parcels in the dataset.

Departments identify parcels that they are either using or need to keep under their control. For unused parcels and parcels with no planned use, departments either state their reason for keeping the parcel (easements or flood plain restrictions, for example) or declare it as potentially surplus. The Master List will be reviewed and updated annually.