



**LINCOLN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

July 11, 2001

Gerry Krieser
City-County Planning Commission
555 South 10th Street, Suite 213
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Planning Commissioner Krieser:

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce wishes to express its support for the South Beltway Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 94-62, which is before you at the request of the Director of Planning, Kathleen Sellman, and Director of Public Works, Allan Abbott.

Getting South Beltway approval has been a priority of the Lincoln Chamber for the past several years; and with HWY 2 becoming more overburdened and dangerous on a daily basis, we have seen evidence of the need for the South Beltway grow ever more pressing. On April 12th, 2001, the Chamber's Board of Directors passed an updated Beltways Resolution to "reiterate and reaffirm its support for both the South and East Beltway Projects."

Nebraska 2 is more akin to a city arterial than a highway as city growth in South Lincoln has boomed in recent years, and with the highway being four lanes between Nebraska City and Lincoln, it has become more attractive to truck traffic. Further, the recent revisions to the City/County land use plan which provide for additional development in the Southern parts of the Lincoln metropolitan area will lead to even greater increases in the projected traffic volumes for the South Beltway.

If investment in our transportation systems don't keep pace with our population and economy, these systems become overburdened and outdated. They become an impediment to the economic growth that we seek. Transportation infrastructure makes or breaks business decisions on where to locate or expand every day. With inadequate infrastructure, Lincoln suffers lost time and opportunity.

Expanding our transportation infrastructure to meet tomorrow's needs will be disruptive. However, though the status quo may be easier, it also will produce longer and more frequent delays, less safety, and more environmental damage. On behalf of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, I urge your support for the South Beltway Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 94-62.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Bohrer
Governmental Affairs Counsel

**Exhibit 4
July 11, 2001**



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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Gerry Krieser
City-County Planning Commission
555 South 10th Street, Suite 213
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Planning Commissioner Krieser:

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce wishes to express its support for the East Middle Beltway Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 94-64, which is before you at the request of the Director of Planning, Kathleen Sellman, and Director of Public Works & Utilities Department, Allan Abbott.

On April 12th, 2001, the Chamber's Board of Directors passed an updated Beltways Resolution to "reiterate and reaffirm its support for both the South and East Beltway Projects." On June 14th, the resolution was amended to express that, "[the] Board, pursuant to the reviews and recommendations of the Executive, Infrastructure, and Government Affairs Steering Committees, supports the East Middle Beltway corridor as offering a balance of quality of life, planned contiguous growth, and economic development."

We are fully aware of the controversy and emotional trauma that surrounds the citing of major roadways such as this. But while it is difficult now, we feel that it will only get worse as time passes. However, the need for greater transportation infrastructure in eastern Lincoln will not subside. Therefore, one of our main objectives in choosing which among the East corridors would be our preference was our belief that this is a necessary step in preventing more trauma and controversy later. We were encouraged when the recommendations of the Planning Department and Public Works and Utilities Department were released on June 27th, providing support for the East Middle Beltway.

We commend Mayor Wesely for offering his support to the East middle route. And, we wish to thank all of the Beltway Study Team members, as well as the Directors and employees of the Public Works and Planning Departments for their efforts and expert analysis on this very difficult issue.

On behalf of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, I urge your support for the East Middle Beltway Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 94-64.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Bohrer
Governmental Affairs Counsel

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**Exhibit 5
July 11, 2001**