

BRIEFING NOTES

NAME OF GROUP:	PLANNING COMMISSION
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Wednesday, January 6, 2016, 11:30 a.m., Bill Luxford Studio, Room 113, County-City Building, 555 South 10 th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Michael Cornelius, Chris Hove, Jeanelle Lust, Dennis Scheer and Lynn Sunderman; (Cathy Beecham, Tracy Corr, Maja Harris and Ken Weber absent).
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	David Cary, Mike Brienzo, Brandon Garrett and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department; Brendan Lilley of Lancaster County Engineer; Frank Uhlarik of the Mayor's Office and Pat Leach of Lincoln City Libraries.
STATED PURPOSE:	Briefing on " LRTP and LPlan 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update " by Planning staff

Chair Chris Hove called the meeting to order and acknowledged the posting of the Open Meetings Act in the back of the room.

David Cary stated that the purpose of the briefing today is a review of Chapters 8 and 11 of LPlan 2040. These chapters are fairly straightforward. We have received good feedback from the departments that are involved.

- LPlan 2040 Update

Brandon Garrett stated that Chapter 8 is Community Facilities. Chapter 11 is Energy & Utilities. As staff reviewed these chapters, we were amazed to see how much had changed in the past four years.

Garrett stated that the first topic is *Lincoln City Libraries*. Pat Leach commented that perhaps language could be strengthened about the new headquarter library in the downtown area. She is very interested in moving forward with a new downtown library. She wants to make sure we are moving forward with the overall city view.

Hove wondered what other cities are doing. He questioned if it is a library or more of a community center in today's world. Leach replied that is the case around the country. Libraries these days are associated more with people, than books. A central library speaks more about what people do there. They tend to have a focus on people more through meeting rooms and a learning focus.

There is less space for items, more space for people's use. In the big picture, we are aiming for how we address education and lifelong learning in an environment that looks a lot different than it did 30 years ago.

Garrett continued that **Fire and Rescue** looks different than it did a few years ago as well, with ¼ cent sales tax for new and relocated fire stations. N. 19th St. & Superior is a relocation from N. 15th St. and Adams. S. 84th St. and Pioneers is a relocation from S. 84th St. and South St. N. 84th St. and Leighton, and Hwy. 2 and Pine Lake are new locations, along with 3 additional stations in the future to complete the overall LFR Plan. There are no major update items for Rural Fire Districts.

Cary stated that the map that shows the location of stations will be updated, although we may not have the specific locations yet.

Garrett continued that **Law Enforcement** will need to be updated due to the opening of a new county jail. There is also the co-location of a Police substation with Fire and Rescue near S. 84th St. and Pine Lake Rd. There is a history of cooperation with these agencies, but an obvious need for this for response time.

Regarding **Health Care**, there is a concept of health services deserts where some areas of town are better served than others. He spoke with Charlotte Burke of the Health Dept. and she would like to link with a map that shows disposition of services. The Health Dept. has created a map to display this. The south part of town is better served. Lincoln is still relatively small and accessible for most people, but access can be a problem for some.

Cary sees that areas that are less served are in more economically distressed areas. This is more of an issue for those area. This is typical in a lot of service situations for economically distressed areas. It might be important enough to place in the update.

Garrett continued that for the **Education** section, since the last Comprehensive Plan, some new educational facilities have opened. The Career Academy opened in Southeast Community College (SCC) in the fall of 2015. Wysong Elementary is scheduled to open in fall of 2016 and Moore Middle School is scheduled to open in fall of 2017. Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) is now at almost 40,000 students. Enrollment in private schools has gone down to 6,681.

Cornelius inquired how the trend looks for LPS. Garrett replied it is a very steady line. There are very healthy demographics. LPS is aware of the trend. Cary added that he is going to the LPS Planning Committee in a few weeks. They are experiencing roughly 1,000 new students each year. Growth in the attendance area has already surpassed the latest bond issue and the additional seats that were created. There is a heavy growth factor with the student population. They are constantly looking at the expansion of schools. The next five year period there will a lot of ongoing work with LPS to determine where the next schools should be located.

Garrett continued with ***Other Public Buildings and Facilities***. The Municipal Services Center, the former Experian Building, was mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan for co-locating services. That has come to fruition. The major tenant is Public Works. It has been an important addition to our city infrastructure

Energy was an added section in the last update to the Plan as a result of a new requirement from the state to include an energy element. We were given no guidance from the statutes. Several things have happened. The wind energy code amendment for the County was passed. We might mention the electric vehicle charging stations. Green no. 2 public parking garage has an electric charging station.

Water Services has already come through to amend the new Water Facilities Master Plan. This is also a good time to point out that groups such as Lincoln Water System benefit from keeping the horizon year at 2040. It helps them to maintain focus on the master plan and keep capital improvements in mind.

For ***Wastewater Services***, about one year ago they also updated their facilities Master Plan. City departments do an excellent job about keeping aware of the Comprehensive Plan and future service limit. A recent update is the possibility of using biofuels from the Theresa St. plant and using it to power StarTran buses.

Watershed Management just recently completed their master goal in 2015 for a watershed master plan for every sub-basin within Lincoln's jurisdiction. Conservation Design Standards will be in effect starting February 1, 2016.

Solid Waste has quite a bit going on. There is a new Solid Waste Master Plan. There is also a study for the N 48th St. facility regarding retiring that location as a landfill and using it as a transfer station and having recreation uses throughout the rest. There could even be some shooting or hunting opportunities in the area. Soon they will undergo construction of the new demolition and debris site. We want to get some data in the plan about landfill gas to reflect what is actually occurring with that project.

For ***Electric Service***, Lincoln Electric System (LES) has been very busy. There is the Sun Shares program, net metering where customers can sell power to LES and wind power. LES is adding 173 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy sources for a total of 304 MW. The publicly stated goal to be 48 percent renewable sources of energy once all projects are on line will be accomplished soon.

For ***Natural Gas Service***, new language will be added with regard to the pipeline planning area topic with so many recent projects involving this. This will allow for more flexibility on a case by case basis.

Regarding **Information Technology**, there has been a lot of news about the update to broadband and fiber technology that will come to Lincoln.

Cary added that it has been very interesting to go through these two chapters and see everything that has been happening.

Quiz via KAHOOT

Question: How many fire stations are planned to be relocated?

Answer: Two

Question: What city department or division plans to generate biofuels for StarTran?

Answer: Public Works Wastewater

Question: What percentage of Lincoln's power will come from renewable sources in the near future?

Answer: 48 percent

Question: When was the modern Lego brick patented?

Answer: 1958

- Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Mike Brienzo stated that over the last month, staff has been working on the background and technical tools for the update to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The consultants have been working on the transportation model. The model integration team has accepted the model and passed it on to the state. The state has approved the model. We are developing network analysis tools and identifying the deficiencies. We will also be updating the performance measures, as well as the draft performance measures. We discussed some of those at the last briefing. We will refine them and fill in the blank spots to meet Federal guidelines. We already have some good performance measures that we can continue to use. This will give us an ongoing view on how we are doing. We are also looking at different modes of travel.

The next major step in terms of public participation will be eight focus meetings in January and February based on general interest. We will be talking with people from the development community. We have created focus groups for business, institutions, freight, development community, downtown interests, neighborhood organizations, transit, healthy living, bicycle and pedestrian, cultural centers, multi-cultural and the under-served community.

We also have just set a date for the first public meeting on February 18, 2016 at Culler Middle School. It will be an evening meeting starting at 5:30 p.m. We will be working with consultants, as well as JEO Consulting Group. This will be the first of three public meetings. The next meeting, we

will be looking at system deficiencies based on 2015 data. We also have land uses developed and placed into a transportation model to get an analysis.

Cary noted that it is good we have our model calibrated and ready to go. We will have consultants in town. We have a lot more issues to develop and bring forward. We are interested in the focus groups input. It is a form of value assessment.

Open discussion:

Cary wants commissioners to think about any items they feel staff should spend more time on. A lot of this is about updates to be given, but we want to know if there are other items that should be addressed.

Hove inquired about the update schedule. Cary stated that we will go through each chapter. We will get through that without expanding on other topics prior to the transportation planning process being completed by April 2016. That will give staff more time to create updated documents and disburse over the summer. There will be time beyond April to discuss other items, if desired.

Lust sees one issue that comes up occasionally with acreages in the county. We already have water and well problems. We have asked for more analysis on what can be done. It wasn't clear to her on what should be done. She thought the last Comprehensive Plan contained a suggestion on where we know water is good and steer development towards that area. She believes the County Board was not that comfortable with that suggestion. She would like to talk about it again. Cary agreed that has been talked about a few times. The County Board didn't want to bring guidelines formally into the plan. Lust would like more guidance on what the water situation is with regard to development.

Sunderman remembers that domestic water has priority and farm use is bottom of the totem pole. Lust agreed. That is her understanding as well. Sunderman also finds it ironic that where we have plenty of ground water available, we have rural water service.

Cary stated that we are expecting suggestions from the community and landowners. We are curious to find out and expecting part of that to include the topic of expanding area for acreage developments. That brings forward the water availability issue. We might be faced with talking about it. Garrett added that also related to acreages, we have more acreages in Tier One coming up against land that has full services. There is no language in the current plan on how staff advises the commissioners on how to address services to acreage areas and their further development. There is a large pack of acreages that are nearly surrounded by city limits and are debating if they need to update their systems.

Sunderman believes in the not too distant future, some people will be surrounded. Cary noted that kicks the process into gear for annexation. Garrett believes that we need more guiding language to inform this future situation.

Cary noted a situation where there is an area within the city that is within an existing neighborhood and they have commercially zoned land, but need more multi-family, is something that has occurred numerous times recently. Some of the guiding language on that version of infill might be something to think about as well.

Lust stated that we talk about walkable neighborhoods, but it is a moot point if there is nothing to walk to. Cary knows that in a lot of cases there is more commercially zoned land than is needed. Garrett noted the people knocking on the Planning Dept.'s door more often than not are for apartment uses. Multi-family adjacent to commercial makes it more walkable by nature.

Cary stated it doesn't mean language has to be added at this time, but eventually we will need to.

Scheer wonders if the changes in the last five years have been typical. He questioned if there are things we should be talking about, or should they wait until the passage of the next Comprehensive Plan. Garrett believes a lot of the big changes should wait until the big update. Some necessary items such as clarity on acreages is more important now. Those properties are being surrounded and it would be helpful to have language and guidance available. Bigger issues with a lot of dialogue are for the major update.

Cary stated that the overall topic of density over time is how we handle acreage lots or infill. That is a fundamental change that expands the footprint of the city. That would be for a bigger discussion. As far as guidance, he believes that could be handled with the minor update. We have seen a lot happen in the last five years. A lot has to do with the growth that Lincoln has seen. Sales tax and tax measures have passed. There have been a lot of projects at the same time. We came out of the recession fairly unscathed. It does seem like a lot of changes in the last five years.

We are going to started delving heavily into transportation. The briefing on January 20, 2016 will be on the LRTP. For February 3, 2016, we are still looking at chapters to review.

Scheer questioned what staff has heard from developers on stormwater quality. He wondered if anyone has commented as the new standards are about to kick in. Cary replied that this has been sitting for two years before going into effect to give existing projects time to finish. We haven't heard much on the new standards yet.

Lust wondered if there is any part of the reFORM design standards process that could survive being built into the Comprehensive Plan update. Cary believes we need to decide on some type of post-reFORM effort and progress the topic to some level, but most likely it will take a different form. He thinks the Comprehensive Plan can tweak some language and perhaps have some

suggestion as to what the next steps are. We have been thinking if we need to move forward with more single overlay districts that may apply some design standards in an area where there is support. He would also say that the South Haymarket Neighborhood Plan contains a lot of concepts from reFORM in that plan. reFORM as it was discussed will not move forward. We haven't had all the discussions yet, but possible next steps are being considered.

Sunderman inquired how the N Street Bike Lane is progressing. Cary believes it is generally working fine. They are working on the signal timing at a couple of intersections. He thinks it has really pushed us forward. There are bugs to work out, but he is glad we did it.

Cornelius wondered how snow removal is being handled on the bike lane. He has noticed that snow removal on the bike path is awesome. Cary believes snow removal has been a joint effort. There has been a focus on making sure the bikeway is cleared quickly.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.