Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department
Marvin S. Krout, Director
555 South 10th Street / Suite 213
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402-441-7491 / fax: 402-441-6377
Eugene W. Carroll, Chair
City-County Planning Commission
LANCASTER
LINCOLN
The community of opportunity
MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER
lincoln.ne.gov

RE: Update on Annexation Questions

October 20, 2008

Dear Property Owner:

This letter is a follow up to provide some additional information on questions about annexation. The City of Lincoln held two public information meetings on the proposed annexations on September 25th and October 2nd. At these meetings some additional questions were asked. Some new questions and answers are found on page 2 and 3 of this letter.

We also have a few corrections from our previous mailing and a statement made at the September 25th open house. Previously we stated incorrectly that property owners are required to pay for gravel if additional gravel is spread on a city street. The City will pay for gravel, spreading and maintenance of gravel streets inside the city limits. We apologize for providing the wrong answer at the meeting and have updated our website with the correct information.

Also we have updated information regarding the Clarendon Hills Road Improvement District (RID), which is in the area of S. 70th and Pine Lake Road. At the meeting on October 2nd we stated we thought that the RID assessments may cease upon annexation. We have learned that this is not the case. Upon annexation the City will take over the RID and will continue with the assessments as previously established. (This is also covered in the attached information.)

In addition, the Lincoln Public School Board voted on October 14th to extend the agreement with the City which exempts newly annexed property owners who are paying for voter approved bonds in other school districts from also paying for voter approved LPS bonds. We anticipate this item will be before the Lincoln City Council for approval in November.

The 2008 Annexation Study can be found online at www.lincoln.ne.gov (keyword=annex). The attached "Common Questions About Annexation" are also online. We have also included an updated map that includes all the street names that were inadvertently left off the original map.

As we noted previously, the first public hearing on the proposed annexations is not anticipated until the Planning Commission hearing in late January 2009. The City will send you a notification letter of the hearing once that date has been established. The City Council will also schedule a public hearing, tentatively set for February, and then take action on the proposals.

If you would like additional information on annexation in general, you are encouraged to contact the project planners in the Planning Department,

Tom Cajka (north of A Street) at 441-5662, or by email at tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov, or
Brian Will (south of A Street) at 441- 6362, or by email at bwill@lincoln.ne.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephen Henrichsen
Development Review Manager

Currently our property is not in the Lincoln Public School (LPS) district and my child attends school in another district – what happens after annexation?

After annexation, the property automatically becomes part of the LPS district. Students would then be eligible to start attending LPS schools. However, students can also apply under option enrollment laws to remain at their present school. Parents need to fill out the application paperwork to option their student out of LPS with the LPS Student Services Office. Applications for existing students are very likely to be approved. There is no cost to the family to fill out the paperwork, nor is there any tuition cost to the family to option out.

For additional information on option enrollment or other questions about enrollment, please contact Cheryl Wood, LPS Student Services Office, at 436- 1651 or email cwood@lps.org .

My child currently receives bus service to attend school in another district. Will that bus service be maintained after annexation?

You should contact your current school district to see if they will maintain service.

Our property is currently in the Clarendon Hills Road Improvement District (RID). What happens to the district after annexation?

After annexation, Nebraska State Statute Section 31-763 provides that when all the property of the Road Improvement District is annexed, all taxes, assessments, claims and demands of every kind due or owing to the RID shall be paid to and collected by the city. In addition, any special assessments the district was authorized to levy or assess but which were not levied or assessed, may be levied or assessed by the city. Thus, the City will now collect the assessments from property owners and the City Finance Department will coordinate the process of transferring the RID to the City.

After annexation will vehicle owners be required to pay the City wheel tax and motor vehicle tax?

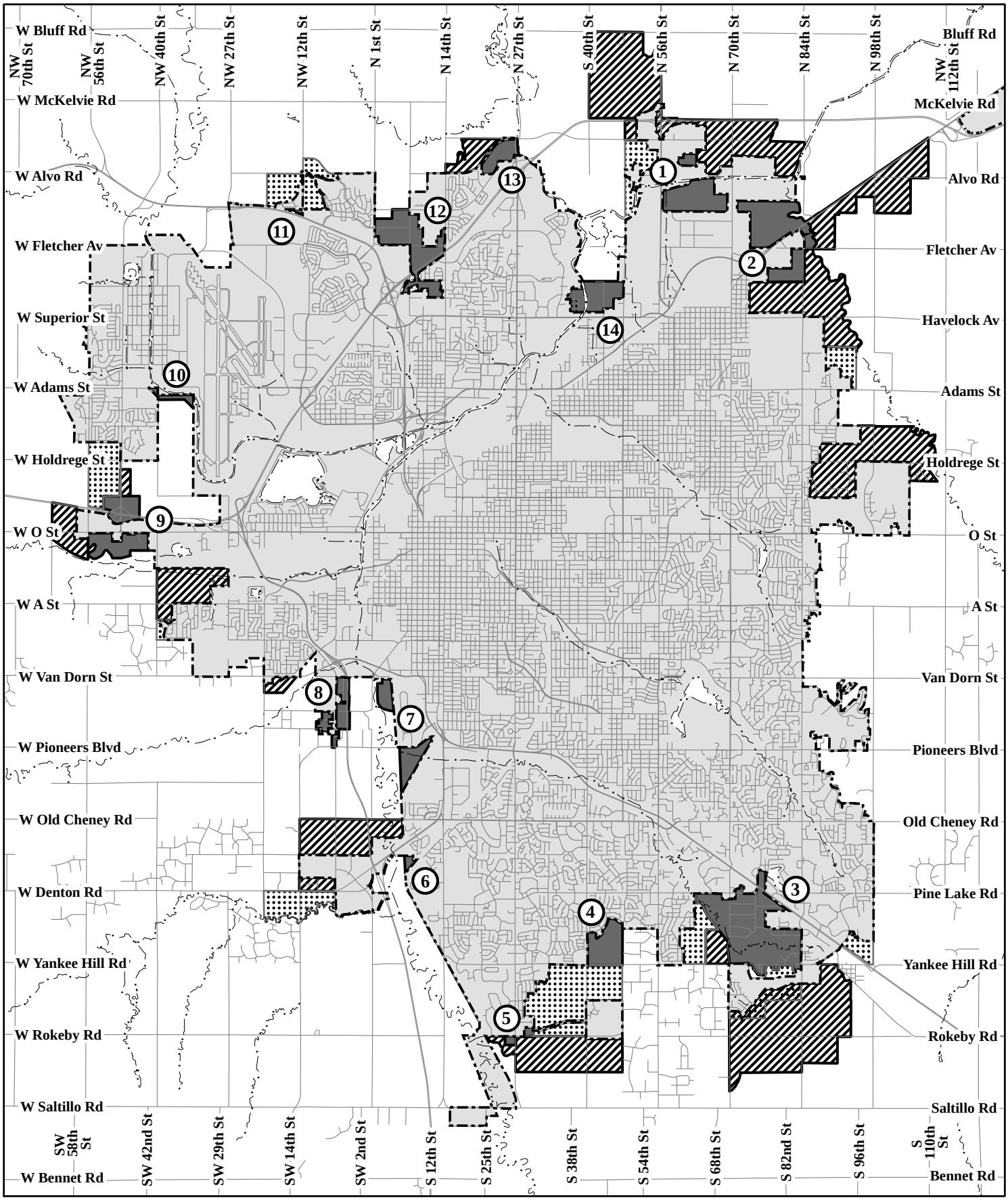
After annexation, vehicle owners will pay the City of Lincoln wheel tax on each vehicle at the time of registration. The wheel tax varies depending on the type of vehicle. It is currently $49.00 per passenger vehicle (nine passenger or less, not for hire.) It is scheduled to increase to $54.00 in January 2010 per passenger vehicle. For a listing of vehicle types & fees, see Lincoln Municipal Code section 3.20.220 http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/attorn/lmc/ti03/ch320.pdf The wheel tax is used to fund snow removal, street construction and rehabilitation in the city.

The motor vehicle tax will not change for the vehicle owner. The only thing that changes is the way the tax is split between the County, school district and City. Prior to annexation, the City doesn't receive any portion of the motor vehicle tax paid. After annexation, the County receives less of the tax and the City will now receive a portion. But the amount paid by the vehicle owner doesn't change due to annexation.

The Nebraska Council of School Administrators website, provides a good explanation of

the motor vehicle tax and how it is divided:

> "Under the current system, the motor vehicle tax and fee are still paid at the time of registration. However, the tax paid is now uniform throughout the state and only three types of local governments share in the proceeds. The motor vehicle tax phases out once a vehicle reaches 14 years of age, but the motor vehicle fee is levied throughout the life of the vehicle.
>
> The tax on any particular motor vehicle is the result calculated by multiplying the base rate of tax times a factor that declines with age. The base rate is based on manufacturer's suggested retail price in the case of passenger cars, motorcycles, pickups, vans and SUVs and the manufacturer's rated weight for commercial vehicles. Exemptions from the tax are the same as was the case under the property tax system. These are primarily government vehicles and those used for religious, educational, and charitable purposes.
>
> The motor vehicle tax is distributed to the city, county, and school system where the vehicle is registered. The school receives 60% of the proceeds with the municipality and county dividing the rest. If the motor vehicle is not registered within any municipality, the county receives both shares. The motor vehicle fee is divided equally between municipalities and counties based on the formula used for distributing motor fuel taxes and other taxes that contribute to the Highway Trust Fund."



ANNEXATION STUDY: INDEX

Existing City Limits (5/6/08)

Annexation In 2009

Annexation In 2010 or Later

Annexations per Annexation Agreement or Development Plan (Approved or Pending)

N
W E
S

LINCOLN - LANCASTER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

July 10, 2008

m:\plan\gis\annex_studies\2008\july_version\new_annex_index.mxd