

We, the Mayor's Environmental Task Force (METF), support the implementation of sustainable compact growth for the LPlan2040. The increase in density will allow Lincoln to develop sustainability using land efficiently, minimizing cost to taxpayers, and maximizing the use of existing water, sewer and street systems. We believe higher density will have beneficial effects on the following aspects of Lincoln's future:

Transportation: In a denser Lincoln, mass transit would become a viable alternative to a personal vehicle and would help reduce overall vehicle miles traveled. Higher density would also lead to a more efficient transit system where user fees become a higher percentage of transit's revenue. Routing mass/alternative transit to the areas of high density at times the people need services will increase use of the system. Utilizing the trails and creating multimodal hubs will decrease the need to drive. Within the community, develop small businesses like: restaurants, grocery stores, and hardware stores to enable walking or biking rather than driving. Increasing density will eliminate the need to build expensive new roads to the fringes.

Infrastructure: Compact growth will promote the redevelopment and upgrade of existing infrastructure instead of building new infrastructure. Investing and utilizing existing systems is more cost-effective for Lincoln and will benefit taxpayers and users.

Livability: Compact growth offers neighborhood parks, grocery stores, recreation centers and restaurants close to where the people reside and encourages the options to walk or bike. Having a couple of grocery stores in the downtown/Haymarket area would enable people to live in that area without having to drive. A more active lifestyle will reduce the incidence of the health issues that are so prevalent in Lincoln.

The aging of the "baby boomer" generation and the shifting attitudes of the younger generation will call for a different type of lifestyle greatly impacting the market for homes. Many young professionals and older adults want to live in mixed-use areas, to be able to use a transit system, and have amenities nearby. The tendency will be to downsize from larger single - family homes to multiple dwelling homes and denser villages" with community green space.

The University has a large number of professionals, many of whom would prefer to live in the hub of the city versus the fringes. It also brings in vast numbers of youth that graduate as adults who desire contemporary living spaces.

Economic Environment:

Lincoln needs to utilize the infrastructures that it has and plan on what the global and local economic environment will be like by 2040. Compact growth represents the type of growth that will be desired in the future. Experts on the subject that were brought to Town Hall Meetings to talk about our growth suggested implementation of a compact, higher density type of planning.

Economic Prosperity: Creating a city that is denser, more livable, and more sustainable will add to the economic competitiveness of Lincoln. Increasingly, employers want to locate a business in a place that has amenities of a more sustainable community. Employers look for transit systems, mixed-use housing, and nearby amenities. A more compact Lincoln will increase our economic competitiveness in the 21st century.

We challenge LPAC and Lincoln to identify and remove barriers to compact growth.

Respectfully,