From the Lincoln/Lancaster County Metropolitan Planning Organization

MPO DRAFT

Charting the course for Lincoln and Lancaster County

September 2006
Volume 3

Updating our future

call if interested. 55527

Looking for Community Input

Planning Commission seeks your involvement – all transportation and development options will be considered. Interested persons invited to attend Open Houses and/or public hearing.

Help Wanted

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission encourages you to add your say on the future of Lincoln and Lancaster County. Two Open Houses and a public hearing are scheduled to encourage public involvement in the Comprehensive Plan/Long Range Transportation Plan Update.

"We hope for a good turnout of citizens. We want to hear their ideas about how the community should grow and about Lincoln's transportation system," said Jon Carlson, Planning Commission Chairman. "The last few months have consisted of assembling the plan based on early feedback. Now, it's important for people to see the results of that and decide if it matches their vision."

The Open Houses are a perfect opportunity to learn about the update process before the completed draft goes before the Planning Commission. They are scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 27 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Gere Library, 2400 S. 56th St.; and Thursday, Sept. 28 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Lower Platte South NRD building at 3125 Portia St. The Open Houses coincide with the anticipated release date of the full draft Comp Plan/LRTP update.

"All of our meetings are to give the public an avenue to view the material, visit with staff and comment on what they think about the update," said Karl Fredrickson, Director of Public Works/Utilities. "While we have a draft document for public review, no alternatives have been eliminated. We want to hear further from the public on how they would like to improve our transportation system."

Fredrickson said public input on the update thus far has been valuable in updating the transportation plan to reflect new growth areas added to the city in recent years.

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Comp Plan/LRTP Update Open Houses:

Wednesday, Sept. 27
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Gere Library
2400 S. 56th Street

Thursday, Sept. 28
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Lower Platte South NRD
3125 Portia Street

City/County Planning Commission Public Hearing

Wednesday, Oct. 18
3:00 p.m.
County-City Building
Hearing Chambers
555 South 10th St.
(The meeting will break at 5:30 and reconvene at 6:00)

Update process continues

Continued from Page 1

"We've updated the Lincoln-area traffic model to reflect anticipated growth. We are now seeking additional ideas on improvements people would like included in the future transportation plan," Fredrickson said.

The Planning Commission welcomes further input at its public hearing on the Comp Plan/LRTP Update on Oct. 18, starting at 3:00 p.m. at the County-City Building Hearing Chambers, 555 S. 10th St. Once amended and approved by the Planning Commission, the draft goes to the City Council, County Board and the Officials Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which will each review and take action on the plan.

"Public input has been extremely valuable to us," Carlson said. "We have nine members on the commission with broad perspectives, but if our job is to implement the community vision, we can't do that without input from the community."

The update reflects changes in the way Lincoln will plan for sustained urban growth, street and highway improvements, guidelines covering neighborhood centers and will incorporate findings of a joint committee of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Board of Health and Planning Commission. Once released, the full draft will be available on the Internet at www.lincoln.ne.gov, Keyword "cpupdate."

Lincoln and Lancaster County adopted the current Comprehensive Plan in 2002. The plan forms a common vision to guide development into 2025. This document includes the desired pattern of land uses and public facilities necessary to support growth. The Long Range Transportation Plan forms an important section of this plan. It describes an evolving local transportation system built upon the Comprehensive Plan's vision.

Federal regulations require that the LRTP be updated every five years to qualify projects for federal funding. To fulfill this requirement, an updated LRTP needs to be adopted in 2007 to extend the plan's vision to 2030.

Public Works/Utilities and the Planning Department lead the Comp Plan/LRTP update effort. As the operator of the traffic system, Public Works helps determine the availability of resources and funding necessary to accommodate anticipated growth and the effect it will have on existing systems. The LRTP is updated largely based upon public input and the findings of a traffic model which serves as a tool to predict how traffic will move throughout the city as it continues to grow, as well as other factors, such as cost, environmental factors and socio-economic impacts.

"We did a complete rewrite of the plan in 2002," Carlson said. "Although this is an update, I think it's been interesting and it's important that we re-evaluate our assumptions and make sure we have a good road map for Lincoln's future."

Comp Plan/LRTP Highlights

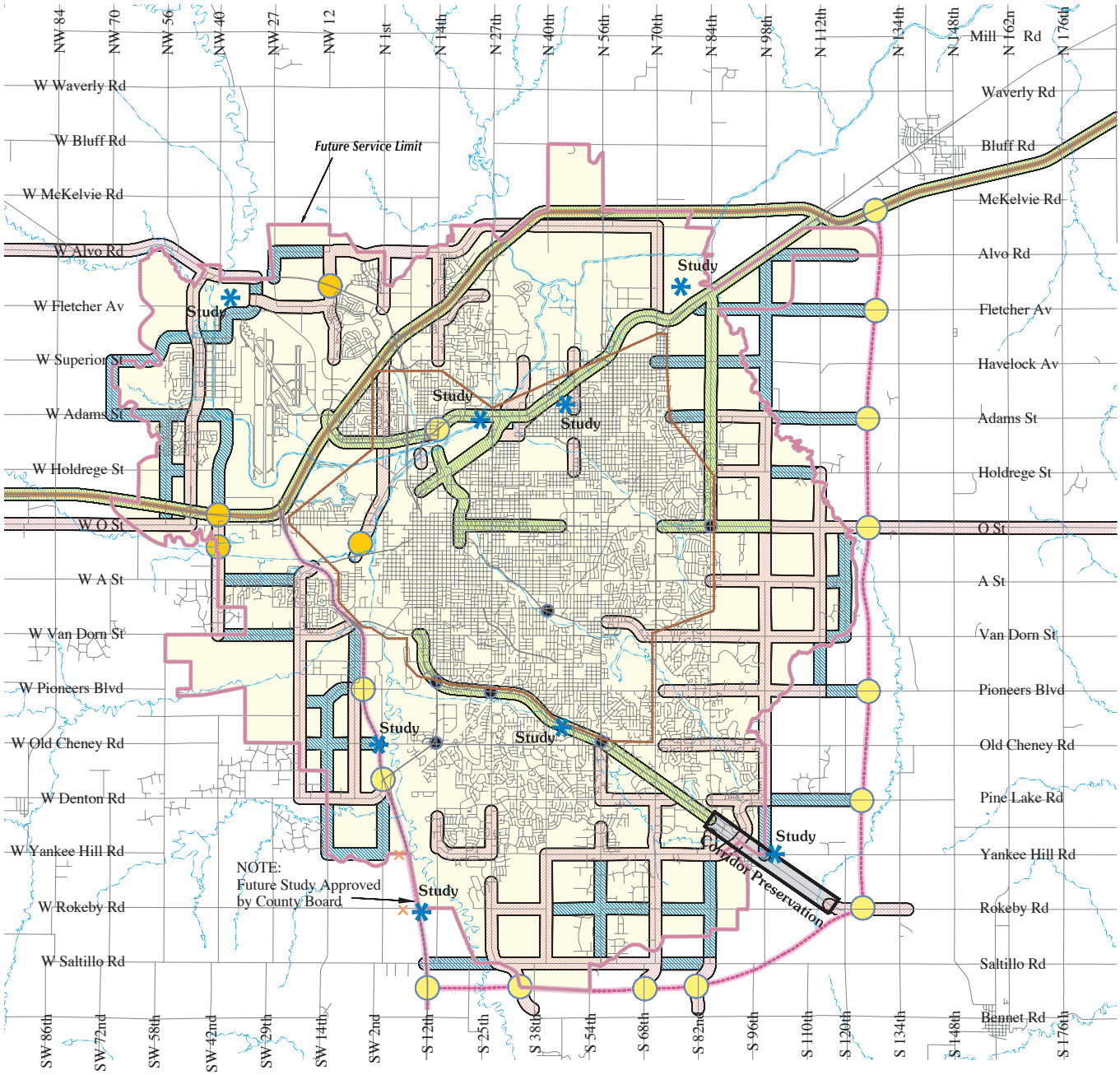
Additions to the Plan

- "O" Street widening to 6-lanes from the Antelope Valley project (approximately 19th Street) to 44th Street.
- Cornhusker Highway widening to 6-lanes from I-80 Exit 399 to I-80 Exit 409.
- Nebraska Highway 2 widening to 6-lanes from South 56th Street to South 84th Street.
- Potential intersection improvements on Nebraska Highway 2 from Van Dorn to South 84th Street.
- Rural-to-Urban Transition for Streets (RUTS) program to provide improved coordination and transition from county rural roads located in the three-mile zoning jurisdiction of the City to urban city streets at the time of annexation.
- Added emphasis on the safety and security of the transportation system.
- New proposed funding sources for transportation improvements including possible changes in City sales tax and the State gasoline tax.

Continued Items in the Plan

- South Beltway is a committed project.
- Antelope Valley projects are committed projects.
- Planning and programming for the East Beltway continues.
- Highway 77 upgrade to freeway status from I-80 to the South Beltway.
- The Two Plus Center Turn Lane program in the Built Environment continues to be a priority.
- Arterial street road improvements to support developing areas.
- Nebraska Highway 2 widening to 6-lanes from Van Dorn Street to South 56th Street.
- Nebraska Highway 2 corridor preservation out to the South Beltway interchange.

PROJECTS & STUDIES: LINCOLN AREA STREET & ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS 2030



DRAFT: September 21, 2006

LEGEND

- Corridor Preservation
- Four Lane Freeway
- 6 Lane Interstate Highway
- 2 Lanes + TL
- 4 Lanes + TL
- 6 Lanes + TL
- Overpass
- Interchange
- Major Intersection Work
- Study
- Street Closure
- Future Service Limit
- Built Environment

Comp Plan/LRTP 2030 UPDATE

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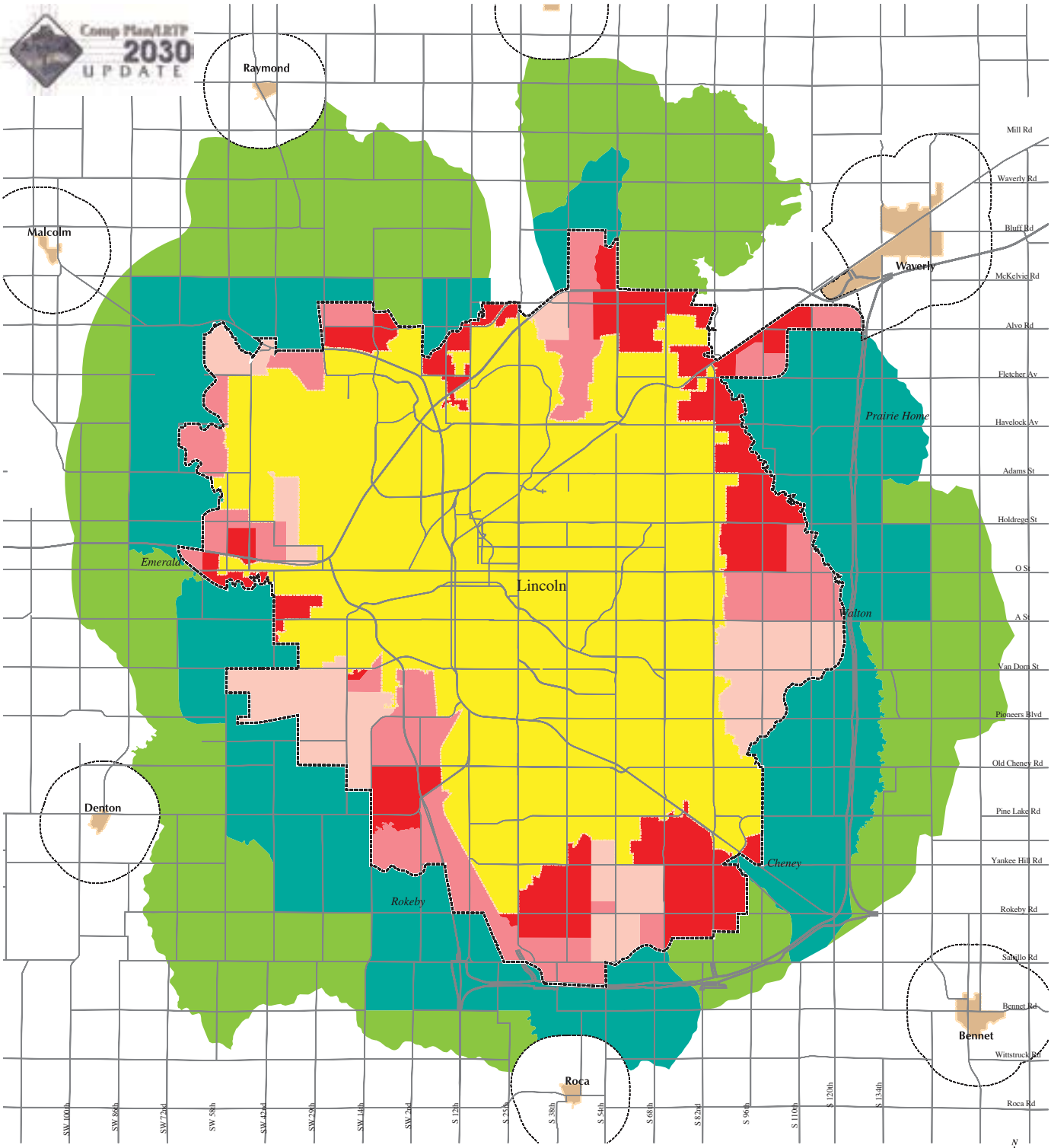
BLUEPRINT 3

URBAN GROWTH TIERS WITH PRIORITY AREAS



DRAFT: September 21, 2006

LEGEND

- Tier I Priority A
- Tier I Priority B
- Tier I Priority C
- Tier II
- Tier III
- Lincoln City Limits (Nov 2005)
- Lincoln Future Service Limit

PRIORITY A: Identifies a future service area of approximately 20 square miles to serve with utilities in the next six years.... The City has developed and made public financial water and wastewater utility plans for operations and growth and the 2006 CIP based on a smaller Priority A area. User fee increases and/or impact fees as projected for water and wastewater will require additional increases, or additional private financing if projects are added or staged earlier than previously identified.

Currently, there are not adequate funds to build needed road improvements within the city limits, much less serve Priority A or other growth areas. If the City is committed to building improvements concurrent with development, then significant additional road funds will be needed, in addition to the proposed rate increases for water and wastewater.

PRIORITY B: The next areas for development, beyond Priority A, are those which currently lack almost all of the infrastructure required to support development. In areas with this designation, the community will maintain present uses until urban development can commence. Infrastructure improvements to serve this area will not initially be included in the City's CIP, but will be actively planned for in the longer term capital improvement planning of the various city and county departments.

PRIORITY C: Priority C is the later phase of development areas and is intended to be served after Priority A and B. Given current growth rates and infrastructure financing, development would not begin in this area until after 2020 or 2025.

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Transit study continues

An examination of the future of public transit for our growing city continues. An outgrowth of the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Transit Development Plan Study will identify near- and long-term policies and action items for improvements to the current system, including organizational and funding options.

The Transit Development Advisory Committee and consultants have compiled background information and received feedback at two Open Houses in May, through stakeholder meetings and public input drop-in sessions. Ongoing public involvement fuels the study, with future Open Houses yet to be scheduled.

The study will include a comprehensive operations analysis, development of near- and long-term transit service alternatives, updated service standards and policies, and management and funding options.

Once a draft and final report is developed to include findings of the previous phases of the project, the report will be provided to the Advisory Committee and then presented to the StarTran Advisory Board and other groups.

The consultant on the project is Urbitran Associates, an engineering, architectural and planning firm headquartered in New York City.

The study is expected to be completed early in 2007.

TEAMWORK

Groups join forces to achieve shared goals

As a running back relies on teammates to assist him to progress toward his goal, the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission and the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department teamed together to tackle issues relating to healthy living in Lincoln.

During the past year, a joint committee comprised of Planning Commission and Board of Health members has developed planning goals to be included within the Comprehensive Plan. These issues include pedestrian and bicycle safety, and hazardous material transportation and storage.

The Planning Commission wanted to update design standards for walkways and roadways. The Health Department wished to address zoning regarding hazardous materials. Thus, a partnership was born as the two entities worked together on these important issues.

"I think it's a unique situation," said Eugene Carroll, Planning Commission Vice-Chair. "Health departments are trying to do this type of work on their own, but we realized we needed to go to the core to reinforce livability throughout our city."

The joint committee has proposed updating ordinances regarding sidewalk installation and improvements to increase walking safety, including requiring commercial developments to add more walkways and making parking lots more pedestrian-friendly. One impetus for these updates came from the Health Department's Walking School Bus program, in which one or more adults walk to and from school with a group of children. In addition, recommendations have been made regarding bicycle safety throughout the city, including improved access to trails. This joint committee also supported the newly adopted city pedestrian standards.

The committee has also developed recommendations regarding the use and storage of hazardous materials and for pipelines carrying hazardous materials to reinforce public safety. These recommendations have been included in the Comprehensive Plan's chapter on the economy.

"We've had good attendance from the Planning Commission and Health Board and the city staff have done a great job of supporting us in our discussions and final decisions," Carroll said.

Get involved by:

- E-mailing your ideas and comments to: plan@lincoln.ne.gov
- Visiting the Web site, www.lincoln.ne.gov, Keyword "cpupdate"
- Faxing ideas to 441-6377
- Getting on the mailing list by calling 441-7491
- Attend future Comp Plan/LRTP 2030 Update public meetings
- Contacting the Public Works/Utilities Department at 441-7548, or the Planning Department at 441-7491

From the Lincoln/Lancaster County Metropolitan Planning Organization

BLUEPRINT

Charting the course for Lincoln and Lancaster County

Comp Plan/LRTP 2030 UPDATE

555 S. 10th St., Room 213
Lincoln, NE 68508

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Dates to remember - All ideas will be considered!

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Please note that all dates and times are subject to change. If you require special assistance at any of these events, please contact the Planning Department at 441-7491 at least 24 hours in advance.