AGENDA
DIRECTORS’ MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
11:00 A.M.

I. MAYOR
1. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor presents September Award of Excellence to Firefighter Tod Sehnert.
2. Letter from Trish Owen, Deputy Chief of Staff, to Council Members regarding landfill gas recovery/utilization system. (Letters delivered to each Council Member on 10/14/08)
3. NEWS ADVISORY. Three major events for Mayor Beutler on Thursday, October 16th.
   a) News Conference at 11:00 am at the Prairie Building at Pioneers Park Nature Center as an addition to the building is receiving LEED®Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.
   b) Lights On Afterschool event at 5:30 pm at McPhee Elementary, 820 So. 15th Street. The Mayor will issue a proclamation and visit with Community Learning Centers’ Lights On Youth Ambassadors.
   c) Open house and candlelight vigil at 7:30 pm at Voices of Hope, 2545 N Street where the Mayor will issue a proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness. (Information forwarded to City Council on 10/15/08)
4. NEWS RELEASE. Prairie building addition earns LEED certification.
5. NEWS RELEASE. Manhole project to begin October 15, 2008.
6. NEWS RELEASE. Open house set on improvements at Superior and I-I80.

II. DIRECTORS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1. Volunteers needed to make Star City Holiday Parade litter free.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1. Metropolitan Planning Organization Officials Committee Agenda for October 17, 2008.

PARKS AND RECREATION
1. Letter to Henry Cech from Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director, regarding the storm water detention area east of Clifford Drive.

PUBLIC WORKS/STARTRAN
1. Reply letter to Sidney Smith from Larry Worth, Transit Manager, in regard to the #50 College View bus operating late and letter from Sidney Smith, September 30, 2008.

III. CITY CLERK
1. Letter to City Clerk, Joan Ross, from Sue Gilleland, stressing the importance of StarTran bus service. (Letter also sent to City Council, listed under Miscellaneous)
IV. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE

V. MISCELLANEOUS
1. Email from Fred Marks inquiring why there are seven different locations for various Veteran services in Lincoln instead of being located at one location they own at 600 S. 70th Street.
   1b) List of Veteran services available in Lincoln, along with their addresses and map.
2. Email from Rick Noyes in support of reallocating money to sidewalk repair.
3. Letter sent to each City Council member from Arlon and Corrine Bartels requesting deletion of Area 12 from proposed annexations for 2009.
4. Email from Anne K. Vidaver regarding having all businesses and private organization list their address numbers on their buildings.
5. Email from Cynthia Hendel regarding support proposal to amend city ordinance allowing use of segways in Lincoln.
6. Letter from Sue Gilleland stressing the importance of StarTran bus service. (Letter also sent to, and listed under, Joan Ross, City Clerk)
7. Letter from Area 12 residents, Evelyn, Francis, Ed Molds and Jessce Gole, are requesting Area 12 be deleted from proposed annexations for 2009.
8. Letter from Area 12 residents, M.L and A.A. Lesalniekj, requesting Area 12 be deleted from proposed annexations for 2009.
9. Copy of letter to Greg MacLean, Director of Public Works and Utilities, from Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. Thanks extended for presentation regarding the Development Services Center with suggestions/comments of ways to improve buy-in for the DSC. (Each Council Member received copy on 10/16/08)

VI. ADJOURNMENT
MAYOR PRESENTS SEPTEMBER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Mayor Chris Beutler today presented the Mayor’s Award of Excellence for September to Firefighter Tod Sehnert of Lincoln Fire and Rescue. The monthly award recognizes City employees who consistently provide exemplary service and work that demonstrates personal commitment to the City. The award was presented at the beginning of today’s City Council meeting.

Assistant Fire Chief John Huff nominated Sehnert in the category of productivity. Sehnert has worked for the City for more than 15 years. He was nominated for a project he took on in January 2006 when he recognized a lack of detailed site maps for many apartment complexes in the area in which his unit, Engine 4, responded. The maps that did exist were old ones hand drawn by Fire and Rescue personnel.

Sehnert thought there should be a better way to produce readable, accurate maps for the complexes. The maps also needed more information for emergency responders, such as building numbers and private fire hydrant and water main locations and sizes. The City-County Planning Department had a similar project under way, but had not started on apartment complexes. Sehnert volunteered to produce the site maps not just for his area, but for the entire City. He developed a process to convert aerial photos of apartment complexes to maps suitable for our emergency response.

Huff said he was impressed with Sehnert’s commitment to the project and the simplicity and affordability of the process he developed. The cost of the computer software was only about $40. Sehnert did the work during his unassigned time, while on duty at the fire station, at no additional cost to the City. Huff said this kind of detailed computer mapping work was beyond what is expected or required of an employee of Sehnert’s rank.

To date, Sehnert has finished mapping 52 apartment complexes. The site plans are being integrated into the mobile data terminals on Fire and Rescue vehicles and are used by all members of the department.

The other categories in which employees can be nominated are customer relations, loss prevention, safety and valor. Consideration also may be given to nominations that demonstrate self-initiated accomplishments or those completed outside of the nominee’s job description.

- more -
All City employees are eligible for the Mayor’s Award of Excellence except for elected and appointed officials. Individuals or teams can be nominated by supervisors, peers, subordinates and the general public. Nomination forms are available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: personnel) or from department heads, employee bulletin boards or the Personnel Department, which oversees the awards program.

All nominations are reviewed by the Mayor’s Award of Excellence Committee, which includes a representative with each union and a non-union representative appointed by the Mayor. Award winners receive a $100 U.S. savings bond, a day off with pay and a plaque. Monthly winners are eligible to receive the annual award, which comes with a $500 U.S. savings bond, two days off with pay and a plaque.
Memo

Date: October 14, 2008

To: Lincoln City Council; Lancaster County Board

From: Trish Owen, Deputy Chief of Staff

RE: Landfill Gas Recovery/Utilization System

Good morning-

I wanted to let you all know of some research we are doing with regard to landfill gas collection and its possible utilization. With the Congressional reauthorization of landfill gas tax credits we are doing some analysis right now of the financial feasibility of collecting and marketing our landfill gas, and taking advantage of possible carbon, and other available tax credits.

City staff including myself, Vince Mejer, Don Herz, Gary Brant, Karla Welding, Steve Huggenberger, with some technical assistance from HDR, have developed an RFQ that will be sent out nationally in the next two weeks. The RFQ is non-binding to the City, but does allow firms to express interest in all, or a portion of, a landfill gas collection and utilization program.

If we should find, upon further analysis of the RFQ's, that there may be a financial benefit to the city to implement a recovery and/or utilization project we will be setting up meetings with you for additional discussions before we move forward. I wanted to make sure you had advance notice prior to the public release of the RFQ.

If you have any questions please let me know, otherwise we will be in touch hopefully in a few months on the responses to the RFQ.
DATE: October 15, 2008
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Members of the media are invited to cover three events on Mayor Chris Beutler’s schedule for Thursday, October 16.

- A news conference is set for 11 a.m. at the Prairie Building at the Pioneers Park Nature Center. An addition to the building is receiving LEED® Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The Mayor also will recognize Union College’s annual Project Impact day of community service held earlier this fall.

- The “Lights On Afterschool” event will be held at 5:30 p.m. at McPhee Elementary, 820 S. 15th St. Mayor Beutler will issue a proclamation and visit with the Community Learning Centers’ Lights On Youth Ambassadors.

- The Mayor will issue a proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month at an open house and candlelight vigil at 7:30 p.m. at Voices of Hope, 2545 “N” St. The vigil is preceded by an open house beginning at 5:30 p.m.
The recent addition to the Prairie Building at the Pioneers Park Nature Center was honored today with the LEED® Certification – Silver from the U. S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is USGBC’s system for rating the design and construction of energy efficient buildings.

The Prairie Building is the first City of Lincoln building to receive the certification.

“The City of Lincoln is committed to green building construction,” said Mayor Chris Beutler. “This project sets the standard we are trying to achieve for all new City buildings in the future.” The Mayor made the comments at the presentation of the LEED plaque to the Prairie Building by Nate Maniktala, a board member of USGBC’s Flatwater Chapter.

LEED was established to promote the design and construction of buildings that protect and save natural resources while also making good economic sense. LEED Certification is awarded to projects that show a commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility. These projects demonstrate lower operating costs, a reduction in waste sent to landfills, conservation of energy and water, and a reduction in harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

The 3,326-square foot addition to the Prairie Building was completed in September 2007. It was designed by The Architectural Partners to achieve LEED certification for energy use, lighting, water and material use and to incorporate other sustainable features. The addition includes a variety of green design and construction features including:

- a garden roof planted with drought-tolerant plants;
- straw bale wall construction;
- a geothermal heat pump system;
- natural day lighting;
- a 3,000 gallon storage cistern that collects rainwater for watering gardens;
- the use of material with either recycled content or post-consumer recycled content;
- the use of products with low or no volatile organic compounds;
- a recycling center; and
- landscaping with drought-tolerant native planting.
The Mayor thanked the community supporters who helped with the addition, including the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the Lincoln Parks Foundation, Lincoln Cares, the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, the Lincoln Public Schools, the Lincoln Electric System, and the Friends of the Pioneers Park Nature Center.

The Pioneers Park Nature Center was established in 1963 and provides environmental education for the community. Its mission is to interpret the natural history of Nebraska and the Central Great Plains; to promote the enjoyment, appreciation and awareness of our natural environment; to practice and foster a conservation ethic; and to provide a sanctuary for wildlife and a peaceful retreat for people. The Nature Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

USGBC is a nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. More information on USGBC is available at www.usgbc.org

- 30 -

The complete name of the system is the LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™.
MANHOLE PROJECT TO BEGIN OCTOBER 15

The Wastewater Division of the City Public Works and Utilities Department will start a manhole rehabilitation project in the downtown area Wednesday, October 15. Temporary lane closures will occur as crews work on about 50 manholes over the next two to three weeks.

The project involves removing the manhole lids, cleaning inside of the manholes, relining them with a cement-type material and replacing the lids. Each manhole will take about two to three hours to finish. The project is part of the Wastewater system’s maintenance and rehabilitation program to upgrade and protect City infrastructure and extend its useful life.

Information on this and other Public Works and Utilities projects is available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: projects).

- 30 -
OPEN HOUSE SET ON IMPROVEMENTS AT SUPERIOR AND I-180

The public is invited to an open house Wednesday, October 22 to discuss proposed safety improvements to the east off ramp at Superior St. and I-180. The meeting is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Eiseley Branch Library, 1530 Superior St.

This project includes the construction of an additional right-turn lane and shoulder to provide additional capacity for northbound to eastbound traffic. Safety for pedestrians and motorists on Superior St. will be enhanced with the addition of the “no right-turn on red” message to the traffic signal. The project also includes the installation of communications conduit and fiber under I-180. The project is currently in the design stage and is tentatively scheduled for construction in spring and summer 2009.

The meeting will allow citizens the opportunity to review the proposed project and environmental findings and ask questions. Representatives from the City Public Works and Utilities Department will be available to explain the project. The design team is seeking public input on the proposed improvements.

More information on the project and open house is available by contacting Craig Aldridge, Engineering Services, at 441-7560.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
October 15, 2008

The Department of Defense Visits Lincoln in Preparation for the 2010 USA National Games for Special Olympics

The Department of Defense to Provide Security for the Games

Lincoln, NE — Today, a representative from the Department of Defense is visiting Lincoln to make preparations for the 2010 USA National Games for Special Olympics. The Department of Defense has budgeted over $4 million dollars to provide security for the games.

While in Lincoln, the representative will be touring the 2010 USA National Games competition venues as well as will be meeting with the City of Lincoln Police Department and security officials from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

The 2010 USA National Games will be the largest sporting event held in the history of Nebraska. Organizers expect 3,000 athletes, 1,000 coaches, 8,000 volunteers and 15,000 family members and friends to come to Lincoln and Omaha for the event. About 4,000 of the nation’s 600,000 Special Olympics families live in Nebraska. The event is expected to have a $40 million economic impact, including $5 million in tax revenue.

Special Olympics offers year-round sports training and competition opportunities for both children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The program gives them the opportunity to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and become integrated and valued members of our society.

For more information, contact:  
Sarah Leeth, 2010 USA National Games,  
at leeth@2010specialolympics.org  or (402) 981-4862.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 13, 2008
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Harry Heafer: 441-8035

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MAKE
STAR CITY HOLIDAY PARADE LITTER FREE
Sidewalk and Trash Can Band volunteers needed!

Help keep the tradition going by volunteering to make the Star City Holiday Parade on December 6 litter free. For the 15th year, Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful is promoting the parade as a litter free event.

This national award winning effort needs 50 volunteers to walk a one to two block area and interact with those watching the parade to provide them with an easy way to throw away their trash. Volunteers are needed from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on parade day. Registrations are needed by October 31.

As a sidewalk volunteer you'll have a positive, rewarding experience making the parade a successful litter free event. It's a lot of fun and you still get to enjoy the parade. Church groups, youth groups, service groups, families and individuals are encouraged to volunteer.

Youth in grades 5 – 12 are also needed to be in the Trash Can Band. Volunteers must be able to attend three rehearsals scheduled for November 16, 23 and 30 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Information has been sent to all schools in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Registrations are also due October 31.

To obtain a registration form, or for more information, contact Harry Heafer at 441-8032 or by email at hheafer@lincoln.ne.gov.

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

An Officials Committee meeting is scheduled as follows:

DATE: October 17, 2008
TIME: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Mayor's Conference Room, County/City Building

AGENDA

• Roll Call and Acknowledge the "Nebraska Open Meeting Act"

1. Review and action on the draft minutes of the June 12, 2008 Officials Committee meeting
2. Presentation of the Lincoln MPO Public Participation Survey. This is a two part survey developed by Sigma Group to evaluate the effectiveness of public involvement activities within the Lincoln Transportation Planning Process.
3. Review and action on Administrative Modifications to the StarTran section of the current FY 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program.
4. Review and action on revisions to the FY 2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program:
   a) TIP amendment to remove funding from the State of Nebraska program for construction of the Lincoln South Beltway project.
   b) TIP Administrative Modifications to the City of Lincoln: Public Works program for minor funding revisions/adjustments.
   c) TIP Administrative Modifications to the City of Lincoln: StarTran System program for minor funding revisions/adjustments.
   d) TIP Amendment to the Federal Transit Administration: Section 5310 Program of projects to add one project.
5. Other topics for discussion
October 15, 2008

Henry Cech
4101 Clifford Drive
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

RE: Storm water detention area east of Clifford Drive

Dear Dr. Cech:

The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding maintenance of the storm water detention area east of Clifford Drive.

As you know, the primary purpose of the area is storm water detention. Previously the entire parcel had been mowed on a schedule consistent with park areas. Today, the perimeter of the parcel and the area on either side of the walkway is mowed regularly, and the detention pond is mowed once annually. In addition to the annual mowing, volunteer trees are to be removed annually and the detention pond is to be monitored for growth of weeds.

Over the past few years funding for operation of park areas has been reduced by the equivalent of 15,000 hours of labor due to funding constraints. Correspondingly, we have focused maintenance activities on active use areas within parks. More than 200 acres of low use parkland and other areas such as the detention area east of Clifford Drive are now managed as “minimum mow” and “prairie in the parks” areas.

We certainly understand that transitioning areas previously mowed on a regular basis to an alternative maintenance schedule changes the appearance of these areas. Some residents have said that they like the more natural appearance of “minimum mow” and “prairie in the parks” areas; others feel that they look unkempt. We hope that residents understand the need to focus limited resources on maintaining actively used parkland. Please phone me at 441-8265 if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Lynn Johnson
Parks and Recreation Director

Cc: Lincoln City Council members
Mayor Chris Beutler
Greg MacLean, Public Works and Utilities Department
Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Public Works and Utilities Department
Chad Blahak, Public Works and Utilities Department
October 8, 2008

Sidney Smith
5120 W Thatcher Lane
Lincoln NE 68528

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your September 30, 2008 letter in which you expressed concern regarding the #50, College View service operating late. Although you did not indicate which trip with which you are experiencing problems, I would note that we are aware of one morning trip sometimes operating late due to before-class vehicle congestion at Pound Middle School. We acknowledge that StarTran patrons are inconvenienced when the bus operates late, and are striving to address the problem.

Again, we appreciate your advising us of this concern, and, of course, thank you for your patronage of StarTran services.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Larry D Worth
Transit Manager

cc: Mike Weston - StarTran
    Lincoln City Council
Hello, My Names is Sidney Smith. I live in Air Park 5120 W. That the LN. I count on the Star Iron Bus daily!!! After I catch bus number #46, Arnold Heights downtown, and then I weight for the College View Star Iron Bus #50, and truthfully and honestly, its basically #50, and truthfully (Honestly its 10, 20 minutes late), but there a late or the early problem its about to be winter and again, I need the Iron buses, and I'm already legally disabled and its not nice for anyone to have to wait, that long.

Just my opinion, we don't need our bus photo Schedule for buses #46 and 50!!! Please respond. Thank you.

Sidney Smith
5120 W. Watchman Ave.
Lincoln, NE. 68508

Received 10/4/08
October 14, 2008

Joan Ross, City Clerk  
City County Building  
555 South 10th Street, Suite 103  
Lincoln, NE 68508

THIS LETTER IS TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF STARTRAN BUS SERVICE

I am an employee of the State of Nebraska working to make ends meet like you. I have been riding the College View bus for six years.

Since the changes have been implemented, at times, the bus has been running late. My hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. I ride the 7:15 am College View bus to town and catch the 4:45 bus to College View.

We do not have a regular driver in the morning which could be part of the problem. The morning bus runs about 5 to 10 minutes late on a nice day. The bus stops at the State Office Building at 8:00. It doesn’t always get to the Gold’s Building on time. What is going to happen when the weather doesn’t cooperate? Will we be late every day?

There are two bad intersections where driver has to wait. The first is 37th and Van Dorn since it is at Southeast. The second is 21st and A where there isn’t a light. A suggestion would be to turn on 40th at Sheridan and go to Van Dorn (where there is a light) and then turn on 37th. I catch the bus at 40th and Sheridan. There aren’t any passengers who catch the bus between 40th & Sheridan and Southeast. Starting the bus 5 minutes earlier could possibly help.

The bus going to College View at 4:45 can be 15 to 20 minutes late. I get off work at 4:30 and that means I have to wait almost ½ hour. This winter is going to be bad. There is only one shelter at the bus stop on the north side of the State Office Building. Previously, the bus stopped in front of the State Office Building and it was possible to wait inside and watch for the bus; this is not the case any longer.

Sincerely,

Sue Gilleland
3535 S. 40th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506
There are 7 different offices in Lincoln that a veteran might use at one time or another and they are spread out all over Lincoln. The VA owns the property at 600 S. 70th Street. The VA leases offices at all these other sites...you mean to tell me it wouldn't be more efficient to locate all of these offices at 600 S. 70th Street? What am I missing here? Why in the world would the VA want to lease out it's buildings at 600 S. 70th Street when they could use them themselves and save the taxpayer money? Again...what am I missing? I would like to know the cost of leasing all these buildings all over Lincoln?

FRED MARKS
6701 Vine Street
Lincoln, NE  68505
402-261-5346

- VALincoln.pdf
Results 1-10 of about 1,604 for VA, near Lincoln, NE

A. Veterans Affairs
301 Centennial Mall S # 4, Lincoln, NE - (402) 471-2458

B. VA Nebraska Western Ia Health
600 S 70th St # 597, Lincoln, NE - (402) 489-3802

C. Veterans Employment Info
1010 N St, Lincoln, NE - (402) 471-2275

D. Nebraska State Services Office
5631 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE - (402) 420-4023

E. Dept of Veterans Affairs
5631 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE - (800) 827-1000

F. US Veterans Employment Services
550 S 16th St, Lincoln, NE - (402) 437-5289

G. Veterans Employment Info
550 S 16th St, Lincoln, NE - (402) 471-9833

H. Lancaster County Offices: General Assistance
Ste 150, 2202 S 11th St, Lincoln, NE - (402) 441-3095

I. VA Nebraska Western IA Rad Dept
600 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE - (402) 486-7805

J. Us Government Offices VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care Systems: Mental Health Clinic
Lincoln, NE - (402) 486-7823
Honorable Council Members

I want to add my voice of support to the effort to reallocate $750,000 to sidewalk repair.

In earlier years a commitment was made to budget $750,000 annually to citywide sidewalk repair so I appreciate your following through on that commitment.

Established neighborhoods have had significant deferred maintenance in sidewalk repair for numerous years. That deferred maintenance needs to be addressed in upcoming city budgets or else the problem will only get more expensive.

Rick Noyes, President
Downtown Neighborhood Association

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.
October 2008

Re: Proposed Annexations

Reinhard Stahmer, Doug Greene, Jon Camp

My letter is sent to request that you delete Area 12 from your proposed annexations for 2009.

Nearly all of this land is in acreages and we intend to keep it that way. We are not interested in sub-dividing. During the September 25th Open House, Steve Hendrichsen repeatedly commented that “the developer” could do this or that. Considering the attitude of the land owners, the city is not going to gain the additional revenue they are hoping for.

Many acreage owners are retired and live on fixed incomes. The additional costs of annexation would be an unfair hardship, with minimal benefit, during this time of economic turmoil with increasing energy costs and the financial instability in the financial markets. The City of Lincoln is facing its own financial problems.

Mr. Krout of the Planning Commission, stated the city has enough developable lots within the City limits to last 8 to 10 years.

As Mr. Hendrichsen undoubtedly reported, most of the objections to annexation at the September 25th meeting were from residents in Area 12. Out of respect for Area 12 residents, we respectfully ask that you delete Area 12 from your list of 2009 annexations and delay any thought of annexation for many more years until economic times are better...for both the City and for us.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

501 Kennedy Street
Lincoln, NE 68501
October 2008

Re: Proposed Annexations

My letter is sent to request that you delete Area 12 from your proposed annexations for 2009.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

501 Kennedy Grania Ave.
Lincoln NE 68521
All:
I request that you consider having all businesses and private organizations have address numbers on their buildings. Try going into an unfamiliar part of town and finding a building, unless the signage is conspicuous. Try finding the business in the Stuart building on the corner that has an undecipherable signage on its windows. Try finding a store or business in a place in which all building parts look alike. It would save aggravation, gas use and time. And perhaps make Lincoln a friendlier city, and easier to get around in for visitors.
I hope you discuss this request.
Anne Vidaver

Anne K. Vidaver
University of Nebraska
Department of Plant Pathology
406 Plant Sciences
Lincoln, NE 68583-0722
Tel. (402)472-2858
Fax. (402)472-2853
e-mail. avidaver1@unl.edu
Dear Members of the Lincoln City Council:

My husband and I will be attending the October 20 City Council meeting to express our support for a proposal to amend city ordinance to allow the use of electronic personal mobility assistive devices (aka EPMADs, aka Segways) in Lincoln. We have been privileged to participate in discussions with the Mayor's Environmental Task Force about this effort to help make Lincoln more hospitable to alternative modes of transportation.

Since it came on the consumer market in 2003, the Segway has not caught on with the general public to the extent that its inventor had envisioned, but it is in use by police departments around the world on a routine basis, as well as for special events such as the Super Bowl and the Olympics. It has also been adopted by many people with impaired mobility, like my husband, Michael, who has multiple sclerosis. The use of Segways by police and airport and shopping mall security personnel demonstrates that they are safe and appropriate to operate in crowded venues and pedestrian zones. The Segway has a smaller footprint than a wheelchair (25 1/2") and a zero turning radius. Unlike a bicycle, it remains balanced at very low speeds, even at a complete stop, and can back up. The additional 8" in height that it gives the operator provides a better view of traffic and better visibility to traffic. The Segway also has built-in safety features that cause it to shut down if the operator becomes separated from the device or if it encounters an obstacle. The Segway has an excellent safety record and, where accidents occur, they are generally very minor and involve only the operator.

In talking to people around Lincoln about the Segway, Michael and I have found that those with the greatest misgivings about it are those who've never tried one, while those who have ridden Segways on tours in Florida, Chicago and elsewhere (most major cities have Segway tours of some kind) have loved it. We would like to invite any of you who would like to research this proposal by actually riding a Segway (legally, in our driveway!) to visit us at 250 South 28th Street. Our telephone number is 438-6294 and Michael is home during the day.

The Segway is all-electric, emission-free and noise-free. We ask for your support in making this environmentally-friendly mode of transportation a viable option for residents of Lincoln.

Yours truly.

Cynthia Hendel
October 14, 2008

City Council
City County Building
555 South 10th Street, Suite 111
Lincoln, NE 68508

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I am an employee of the State of Nebraska working to make ends meet like you. I have been riding the College View bus for six years.

Since the changes have been implemented, at times, the bus has been running late. My hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. I ride the 7:15 am College View bus to town and catch the 4:45 bus to College View.

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3535 S. 40th Street
Lincoln, NE 68506
October 2008

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Mr. Krout of the Planning Commission, stated the city has enough developable lots within the City limits to last 8 to 10 years.

As Mr. Hendrichsen undoubtedly reported, most of the objections to annexation at the September 25th meeting were from residents in Area 12. Out of respect for Area 12 residents, we respectfully ask that you delete Area 12 from your list of 2009 annexations and delay any thought of annexation for many more years until economic times are better...for both the City and for us.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Molte
Granin Molte
Ed Molte

[Signature]

[Signature]
October 2008

Re: Proposed Annexations

My letter is sent to request that you delete Area 12 from your proposed annexations for 2009.

Nearly all of this land is in acreages and we intend to keep it that way. We are not interested in sub-dividing. During the September 25th Open House, Steve Hendrichsen repeatedly commented that “the developer” could do this or that. Considering the attitude of the land owners, the city is not going to gain the additional revenue they are hoping for.

Many acreage owners are retired and live on fixed incomes. The additional costs of annexation would be an unfair hardship, with minimal benefit, during this time of economic turmoil with increasing energy costs and the financial instability in the financial markets. The City of Lincoln is facing its own financial problems.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Signature]

6504 N. 7th St
October 15, 2008

Greg MacLean  
Director, Public Works & Utilities  
City of Lincoln  
555 S 10 ST  
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Development Services Center Presentation

Dear Director MacLean:

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce extends its thanks to you and Mike Lang for your presentation regarding the Development Services Center. We appreciate your efforts to improve the development process and engage our membership. At the Lincoln Chamber, we firmly believe the more interaction we have between the public and private sector, the better we are as a community.

In your presentation, you indicated the DSC is only in the preliminary planning stages so we feel this discussion is very timely. The Lincoln Chamber’s Transportation & Public Works Steering Committee met immediately following our forum. As a group, they were quick to point out many of the successes this administration has had improving the development process with the recent emphasis and commitment to better service.

The following are a few of the initial suggestions/comments on how you might improve buy-in for the DSC:

1. **The single biggest issue is management and breaking down the current “silos” between the departments involved in development process;**

2. **Centralization could help create efficiency**  
   - We agree that crossover cooperation could help breakdown current barriers to success. However, the single biggest issue continues to be the need for a single authority that can act as the final approval for a project;

3. **The DSC Advisory Committee should be organized immediately**  
   - The feedback from our membership following your presentation illustrates the urgent need for buy-in from your customers;

4. **Develop potential performance measures that are tangible and quantifiable and;**

5. **Better delineate the funding model for both one-time and operational funding.**
Again, the Lincoln Chamber would like to thank you for being so open and honest in this discussion. The issues where we have achieved the most success have been the direct result of early information and continued cooperation. The Lincoln Chamber pledges its assistance in identifying individuals capable of providing direction on the DSC advisory committee. Feel free to contact me or any member of our staff for help.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Wendy Birdsall, CCE
President
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development

CC:  Mayor Chris Beutler
      Mike Lang
      Lincoln City Council Members