

City Council Introduction: **Monday**, January 9, 2012
Public Hearing: **Monday**, January 23, 2012, at **3:00** p.m.

Bill No. 12R-9

FACTSHEET

TITLE: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 11005, requested by the Director of Planning, to amend the 2040 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan by revising the credits page; Chapter 1, Vision & Plan, LPlan 2040 Elements; Chapter 12, Plan Realization, Public Sector Contributions; and Chapter 12, Plan Realization, Plan Update Process, to clearly differentiate the Comprehensive Plan document from the Long Range Transportation Plan document so that the intent of each document is more clearly understood.

SPONSOR: Planning Department

BOARD/COMMITTEE: Planning Commission
Public Hearing: 12/14/11
Administrative Action: 12/14/11

RECOMMENDATION: Approval (9-0: Francis, Lust, Butcher, Gaylor Baird, Weber, Hove, Sunderman, Esseks and Cornelius voting 'yes').

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

FINDINGS OF FACT:

1. This is a request to amend pertinent text in various locations of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, as set forth on p.3-4, to clarify the relationship between the Transportation chapter and the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
2. The staff recommendation of approval is based upon the "Analysis" as set forth on p.3-4, concluding that this is a clean-up amendment to clarify that the Transportation chapter of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the LRTP are two separate but compatible documents. The staff presentation is found on p.5.
3. There was no testimony in opposition.
4. On December 14, 2011, the Planning Commission agreed with the staff recommendation and voted 9-0 to recommend approval.
5. This proposed amendment is also tentatively scheduled for public hearing and action by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners on January 24, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

FACTSHEET PREPARED BY: Jean L. Preister

DATE: December 28, 2011

REVIEWED BY: _____

DATE: December 28, 2011

REFERENCE NUMBER: FS\CC\2012\CPA11005

**LINCOLN/LANCASTER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT
for December 14, 2011, PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**

- PROJECT #:** Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 11005
- PROPOSAL:** Amend the Lincoln/Lancaster County 2040 Comprehensive Plan on the credits page, page 1.11, page 12.13, and page 12.17 to clearly differentiate the Comprehensive Plan document from the Long Range Transportation Plan document so that the intent of each document is more clearly understood.
- LOCATION:** Several locations throughout the 2040 Comprehensive Plan document in regard to the relationship between the Transportation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan.
- CONCLUSION:** This is a clean-up item to make changes to language in several locations of the newly adopted Plan to make it clear that the Transportation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and the LRTP are two separate but compatible documents.
- For this reason the Planning Department supports this amendment and recommends its approval.

RECOMMENDATION:	Approval
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HISTORY:

LPlan 2040, the update of the Lincoln and Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan, was developed through a public process to provide opportunities for public involvement and information dissemination. The public process began in spring of 2010, and involved input from elected and appointed officials, a 20 person advisory committee, City, County, State and Federal staff, business and special interest groups, and thousands of members of the public.

In July of 2011, a draft of this plan was posted to the website and distributed to the public. In September of 2011 the Planning Commission approved an amended draft and forwarded it to the City Council and County Board for their consideration. A public hearing was held on October 18th with both the City Council and County Board in attendance. The County Board approved the new Plan on October 25, 2011, and the City Council approved the new Plan on October 31, 2011.

Historically, the Transportation chapter in the Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan served as both the local transportation plan for Lincoln and Lancaster County as well as the federally required Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). During the development of the final draft of the new 2040 Comprehensive Plan, it became clear that the financial and project prioritization details that were necessary in the LRTP to meet Federal requirements were not appropriate for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan. In order to meet requirements of the federal transportation planning process, a clear separation between the Transportation chapter in the Comprehensive Plan and the MPO's LRTP was needed.

This has resulted in two separate documents that are related and consistent with each other, but meet different planning requirements. The Comprehensive Plan provides broad policy guidance for the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County on a multitude of topics including transportation, while the LRTP provides more detailed financial and project prioritization transportation information.

As this separation of the documents took place, a number of locations outside of the Transportation chapter where language also needed to be updated to properly reflect this separation were overlooked during the approval process of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. These needed text changes are now identified and further detailed below.

ANALYSIS:

1. This is a proposal by the Planning Department to amend the 2040 Comprehensive Plan with the following text changes:

Credits Page: LPlan 2040 is the Lincoln-Lancaster County 2040 Comprehensive Plan ~~and Long Range Transportation Plan~~. The Plan embodies Lincoln and Lancaster County’s shared vision for the future, out to the year 2040. It outlines where, how and when the community intends to grow, how to preserve and enhance the things that make it special, and strategies for implementing the vision for how we will live, work, play and get around in the future. ~~LPlan 2040 also meets the federal transportation planning requirements for the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).~~

LPAC met from June of 2010 through June of 2011. During the same time period, broad input was sought from the community, as well as from City-County departments and numerous other agencies and organizations. The technical elements of the ~~Long Range Transportation chapter Plan~~ were developed with consulting assistance from LSA Associates, Inc.

Page 1.11: **Transportation**

~~Serves as the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for Lincoln and Lancaster County, together with the LRTP Technical Report in Appendix A. This chapter Examines examines multiple modes of travel and lays out the transportation vision to 2040 based on future land uses. This chapter is related to and consistent with the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (MPO’s) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan, or LRTP.~~

Page 12.13: A companion document to the City’s CIP, called the Transportation Improvement Program or TIP, is also prepared on an annual basis. This task is assigned to the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization, a policy making board comprised of representatives from local government and transportation authorities that reviews transportation issues and develops transportation plans and program for Lincoln and Lancaster County. The TIP gathers together in a single

document those local, State and Federal transportation capital projects proposed for the next four years. These include improvements for streets and highways, airports, railroad support facilities, trails, and public transit. Transportation projects must have a finding of substantial conformity to the Comprehensive Plan before they can be included in the TIP. The MPO's fiscally constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (~~the Transportation chapter of LPlan 2040~~) requires that all projects programmed must fall within the limits of funding that can be reasonably expected.

Lancaster County prepares an annual Road and Bridge Construction Program, commonly referred to as the "County 1 and 6 Program" because it includes the projects and programs for the first year and a more generalized list of projects going out 6 years in the future. The County 1 and 6 Program supports the projects identified on the Lancaster County Future Road Improvements map, which is a part of the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (~~"Transportation" chapter of LPlan 2040~~). This program identifies not only capital improvements but also maintenance projects such as grading and graveling of roads. Projects that us federal funding or are part of a regional system are included in the TIP.

Page 12.17:

Plan Update Process

The Federal highway Administration (FHWA) requires that communities maintain a fiscally constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that is updated every 5 years and embodies at least a 20-year planning horizon in order to receive federal transportation funds. The Lincoln MPO's Lincoln & Lancaster County's 2040 LRTP is a companion to the Transportation chapter in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan can be found within this plan as the "Transportation" chapter and Technical Report in Appendix A. By the year 2015, the community will need to begin the process to update the LRTP, and potentially the Comprehensive Plan to meet federal requirements guidelines.

CONCLUSION:

The Planning Department recommends these text changes be made to ensure the Comprehensive Plan clearly distinguishes between the Transportation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan. These are now separate documents that meet related but individual transportation planning needs.

Prepared by:
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COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 11005

PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE PLANNING COMMISSION:

December 14, 2011

Members present: Francis, Lust, Butcher, Gaylor Baird, Weber, Hove, Sunderman, Esseks and Cornelius.

There were no ex parte communications disclosed.

Staff recommendation: Approval.

Staff presentation: **David Cary of Planning staff** explained that this proposed amendment will clarify the difference between the Transportation Chapter in the new Comprehensive Plan and the separate Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) document. The two are compatible and they support each other, but as discussed previously, the LRTP has a lot more detailed information. This will make sure we are clear that there are two separate documents but that they are supportive and consistent with each other.

There was no other testimony in support or opposition.

ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION:

December 14, 2011

Francis moved approval, seconded by Lust.

Cornelius stated that as a result of these changes, he is hopeful that as we go forward we don't see the kinds of "hiccups" we had in terms of budget, such as arguments about sidewalks, etc.

Motion for approval carried 9-0: Francis, Lust, Butcher, Gaylor Baird, Weber, Hove, Sunderman, Esseks and Cornelius voting 'yes'. This is a recommendation to the City Council and Lancaster County Board of Commissioners.