

The Honorable Mike Flood, representing Nebraska First Congressional District

House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

Member Day Testimony – June 14th, 2026

Thank you, Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, and all the members of the Committee. I am grateful for this opportunity to highlight an important project in Nebraska's First Congressional District.

Specifically, I would like to call to your attention the proposed “**Lincoln East Beltway**” located in Lincoln, Nebraska and Lancaster County, Nebraska. Lincoln is the capital of Nebraska, proudly home to the flagship University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and, most importantly, where roughly three hundred thousand of my constituents reside.

The Lincoln East Beltway is a proposed new highway corridor on the east side of the Lincoln metropolitan area, spanning 13 miles from the existing Lincoln South Beltway to Interstate 80. This project involves the development of a four-lane divided freeway that would **alleviate congestion, improve connectivity, and support regional growth** in the Lincoln, Nebraska metropolitan area.

Recognized as a key transportation priority, the Lincoln East Beltway is included in the Lincoln / Lancaster County 2050 Comprehensive Plan for corridor protection and is listed in the Lincoln / Lancaster County, Nebraska Metropolitan Planning Organization 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

On January 23, 2007, the City of Lincoln and the County of Lancaster entered into an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration to prepare a preliminary design and to file corridor protection plans for the proposed Lincoln East Beltway. The Nebraska corridor protection statute provides an important tool for responsible planning. Since inception, **the City of Lincoln and the County of Lancaster have already acquired approximately \$4.1 million of right-of-way through the corridor protection process**, and the City and County are positioned to continue to protect the corridor as parcels become available for purchase.

Transportation options are vital to keeping the City of Lincoln and the County of Lancaster economically competitive, and physical transportation infrastructure is an integral component of the supply chain that supports our continued local, regional, and statewide growth in a competitive global economy. Now that the City of Lincoln's South Beltway is complete, **the Lincoln East Beltway remains the final uncompleted portion of the expressway system** around the City of Lincoln. In anticipation of completing this project, the City of Lincoln and the County of Lancaster have invested millions of dollars in securing the Lincoln East Beltway corridor for future development. To ensure continued economic growth, **federal investment is critical** to realize the completion of the expressway system serving the City of Lincoln and the County of Lancaster.

Once complete, this project will **redirect between 14,000 and 28,000 vehicles per day** from city streets and county roads. The Lincoln East Beltway will provide an alternative route to existing roads, reducing traffic congestion on major corridors such as U.S. Highway 77, Nebraska Highway

6 and Nebraska Highway 2. By diverting through-traffic, particularly heavy truck traffic, away from residential and commercial areas, the project will **enhance daily commutes** and **reduce travel times**. It will alleviate congestion, provide Nebraskans better access to Interstate 80 and reduce traffic accidents. In addition to the jobs created during construction, expanded transportation corridors will **attract businesses and foster economic development**, benefiting both **urban and rural areas** in Lancaster County.

This project has been a vision for local leaders for nearly **100 years**. Lincoln is one of the **last remaining cities** of its size that doesn't have a loop highway that encircles it. City, county, state and federal leaders have all been working towards finding a solution that gets the project across the finish line. I am avidly working through the appropriations process and through the upcoming Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act to direct federal support to this priority transportation corridor in Nebraska's capital city.

Thank you for this opportunity to highlight the future Lincoln East Beltway. I look forward to working with you to support this important priority and invest in the future of Nebraska's First Congressional District.



