



The GPTN Newsletter is published whenever there is enough news to justify an issue. It is distributed to GPTN members and interested others.



Great Plains Trails Network

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Completing the Streets

In the only state in the entire country where the state transportation department is still called the Department of Roads, the capital city is forging ahead with a more comprehensive approach to transportation.

After significant public meetings and engagement, the city council approved the Comprehensive Plan LP2040 in October 2011 which endorses "Complete Streets" and called for a more detailed policy to be developed. This past September, Mayor Chris Beutler signed an executive order establishing "Complete Streets" as official city policy. This step requires all city departments to work together on this issue.

"Complete Streets" is a transportation policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation. Complete Streets allow for safe travel by those walking, bicycling, driving automobiles, riding public transportation, or delivering goods.

The goal of Complete Streets is to increase coordination so we can better capitalize on cost-saving efficiencies while better serving Lincoln's residents with additional travel options, according to Planning Director Marvin Krout.

City's demographics are changing and providing travel options is an important economic development tool. It's especially important in attracting young, talented workers and the firms that hire them to our city. The young workers of today are less likely to view the automobile as the only mode of

transportation. Many young workers have lived in other areas of the country where bicycling and walking are important components of a transportation system.

Lincoln has traditionally tried to be a "Complete Street" city - to pay attention to the needs of pedestrians and bikers as well as cars, according to Planning Director Marvin Krout.

The city recognizes that the Complete Streets policy isn't the answer in all situations. Not every street can or should serve all modes of travel equally. Complete Streets establishes a goal, not a mandate. The policy recognizes that implementing this concept requires a flexible case-by-case approach. Department directors and staff are to look closely at the opportunities and constraints during the early design stages of street projects.

Lincoln recently has been exploring "shared path opportunities" where 10-foot-wide sidewalks provide enough room for both bikers and walkers, Krout said.

First Street north of Cornhusker Highway was recently improved with a wider "shared path" for pedestrians and bicyclists. Old Cheney Road has been constructed with a shared path over time, and the proposed improvement from 70th to 92nd streets will extend that path.

More than 550 cities, including Sandpoint, ID and Memphis, TN, have adopted a "Complete Streets" policy. For more information: <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets>

GIVE YOURSELF A CHRISTMAS GIFT

By donating to Lincoln's trail system, you are giving yourself, your family and your community a gift that will provide enjoyment and health for years to come.

Yes, I want to support Lincoln's trails system by making a tax-deductible donation to:



Wilderness Park Bridges \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other _____

N St Protected Bikeway \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other _____

Please make your contributions payable to the **Nebraska Trails Foundation**. Mail your check to GPTN, 5000 N. 7th St., Lincoln NE 68521. The Foundation will send you your tax deductible information.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

The Nebraska Trails Foundation and GPTN may reallocate funds in the event a solicited project is otherwise funded or as deemed appropriate by the boards.

Thank you!



Source: AARP

"Designing streets with only cars in mind leaves the connection between how we move and how we live unrealized... We have to embrace our public space differently and look for opportunities to enhance them for all people that want to use them."
— Carlsbad, California Deputy Transportation Director Bryan Jones



Great Plains Trails Network

since 1988

dedicated to the goal of developing a network of commuter and recreational trails within Lincoln and Lancaster County

2013

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Newsletter comments, questions, corrections
gbentrup68@gmail.com



peopleforbikes™

PEOPLE FOR BIKES GRANT!

Wow! The city and cyclists of Lincoln are on a roll (celebratory pun)! First, Lincoln, Nebraska comes in first in the nation for the National Bike Challenge, now we have been awarded a \$10,000 grant from PeopleforBikes.org via their Community Grants Program. GPTN along with our partners applied for the grant and was one of the 10 communities across the country to receive this award. Where is this money headed? To the N-Street Protected Bikeway Project of course!

This project will provide a two-way protected bike lane on N Street, linking the Jamaica North Trail with the extensive Antelope Valley Trail system. Running from Pinnacle Bank Arena Drive to 23rd Street, this connection will offer great access to downtown businesses and the Haymarket district.

Launched in 1999 as Bikes Belong, PeopleForBikes includes both an industry coalition of bicycling suppliers and retailers, as well as a charitable foundation. Over the years, the organization has spent more than \$30 million to make bicycling better. They have invested \$2.1 million in community bicycling projects and leveraged more than \$654 million in federal, state, and private funding. They have contributed millions to national groups and programs like Safe Routes to School, the League of American Bicyclists, and the International Mountain Bicycling Association, ensuring safer places to ride for both children and adults.

By connecting the bicycle industry and millions of individual riders, they generate political clout that secures a seat at the congressional table for people who benefit from bikes. (And that's just about everyone.) Through these efforts, federal investment in bicycling has quadrupled since they have been on the scene.

They provide a unified front for advocating for bicycling on a national level, a strategic center to ensure collaboration between each piece in the bicycling movement, and the ability to support local efforts through our financial, community and communication resources. Find out more about this great organization at www.peopleforbikes.org

GPTN NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

September to December 2013

Welcome to new members: Sandra C. Amen, David & Kathy Anderson, Max Antoine, Wendy Austin, Patricia Beeck, John & Rita Bartzatt, Susan Belasco, Rex Coleman, Jenny Dauer, Brent Dickie, Andrew Duey, Jane Edwards, Tim Einspahr, Benjamin Essay, Gene & Colleen Eubanks, Robert & Donna Ewoldt, Jeane France, Tim Fisher, Jane Goertzen, Larry Gregg, Sarah Gauger & Charles Duerschner, Marty Hamel, Garland Headrick, Randy Hiatt, Fred & Gloria Holbert, Charles & Sigrid Horner, Ann & Dick Hudson, Kan Kacprowicz, Stephanie & Todd Kasper, Brian Kinkade, Steve & Diane Kraus, Stan Krause, Gary & Cindy Love, Bernard Lyons, Robert McCollough, Mike Melbye, Michael & Deanna Miller, Trenton Miller, Dale & Ellen Niebuhr, Bill Noel, Kurt Preston, Ellen Rainbolt, Mike Renn, Ray & Ann Ringlein, Sabrina Russo, Bruce Sellon, Jim Shonka, Clark Sintek, Kelly Smith, Ann Perlman & David Spinar, Margaret & Tom Stine, Mike & Sue Vint, Kathryn Witte, Lynn & Becky Zabel

Thanks to renewing members: Carolyn Archer, Lee & Janet Anderbery, Travis & Lisa Anderson, Catherine Angle, Tom Armstrong, Kevin Bachman, Jim Barger, Sean Barry, Peg O'Connor & Al Bartek, Monica Beck, Gary Bentrup, Mike & Pam Bjerrum, Bob & Stacie Bleicher, Raymond Bloomquist, Thomas & Lynn Borstelman, Phil & Barb Bohaty, Gene & Jane Boilesen, Pat Bracken, Scott Brady, Gale & Becky Breed, Linda Breen, Mark Brohman, Robert & Ann Brown, David Burd, Roger Bruning, Don & Trudy Burge, Kathryn Campbell, Michael Carroll, Jim & Kim Carveth, Stephen Carveth, Ron & Karen Case, Betty Castan, Frank Chavira, Sheryl Chisholm, Alan & Roseann Christensen, Paul Christensen, Wes & Carol Christensen, Pat Clare, Deb Cirksena, Jeanne Combs, Mary Commers, Dick Cumming, Barbara Day, Gerald & Kit Dimon, Alice M. Dittman, Opal Doerr, Kathryn Dolan, Mike Dosskey & Milda Vaitkus, Richard & Shirley Draper, Gary & Kathy Duncan, Nancy & Hess Dyas, Todd & Kristen Eggerling, Joshua Eixkmeier, Judy Elcher, Mick & Jeri Eschenbrenner, Katherine Evans, Lezlie Ferguson, Steve Ferguson, John & Marty Eischeid, Ben Fischer, Dean & Deb Fisher, Barry & Lisa Forbes, Peggy Forcier, Holly Foster, Barb & Ted Fraser, Sue & Scott Gardner, Hanna Day-Woodruff & John Gates, Bukk Genuchi, Ruth & Jay Gerber, Bud Gerhart, Georgia Glass, Joyce Gleason, Mike Gloor, Vincent Goeres,

Mark & Nanette Gokie, Robin & Janet Goracke, Ron & Connie Gormley, Marynelle Greene & Ted Sharp, Steve & Nancy Green, Tom & Sue Guild, Clarence Gunn, Pat Hackley, Bruce & Pat Hammond, Elly Hardekopf, Nancy Harr, Matt & Amy Harrif, Brad & Beth Hartman, Klaus Hartmann, Jim & Laurie Haszard, Jim Hawkins, Butch & Dobeys Haws, Richard & JoAnn Hekl, Gary & Phyllis Hergenrader, Kay Hesse, Dennis & Rosemary Hicks, Highlands Animal Hospital, Connie Hillker, Ronald Hill, Brian & Gail Hinkley, Roger & Bette Hinrichs, W F Hoppe, Betty Howe, Sarah Howell, & Marilyn Hutchinson, Margaret Jacobs & Tom Lynch, Jett Jakota, Todd & Nancy Jarchow, Wayne & Karole Kaldahl, Scott & Debby Kerr, Kristin Kleve, Don Knop, Marshall & Gail Kohtz, Lynn & Marcia Knuth, Dottie Ladman, Ted & Mary Lagrange, Therese Liegl, Richard Littrell, Steve Loftis, Patrick Lorenze, Tim & Lisa Loseke, Jerry Luedtke, Galen Madsen, Chris & Erin Masada, Kent Mattson, Ed May, Michael McCoy, Thomas McGinty, Eric Metty, Marilyn Metzger, Terry & Jan Monk, Francis Moul, Mike & Lynn Murman, Ruthann Nahorny, James Nau, Nebraska Sports Council, Dale & Sherri Nielsen, Melvin Northup, Gail & Jim O'Hanlon, Norma Orr, Don & Joanne Pepperl, David Peters, Sherri Pfeil, Rose Quackenbush, Dan & Cathy Pudenz, Monte & Penny Pueppke, Rose Quackenbush, Robert & Donna Rau, Robert & Lisa Rauner, Daryoush Razavian, Scott & Barb Renken, Fred & Margaret Rickers, Steve Robb, Gary Kreick & Bruce Robbins, Vonn Roberts, James Rose, Richard Ruby, Ed Rumbaugh, Richard Russell, II, Steve Russell, Marie Rustermier, Jim Schaffer, Tim & Barb Schepers, Rosina Paolini & Karl Schlitt, Aaron & Edwina Schmitz, David & Rhonda Schoenmaker, Ann Seacrest, Barbara & Steve Seglin, Becky & Sharad Seth, Tim & Julie Shaw, Laurel Shoemaker, Screen Ink, Nadine Skupa, Linda Smith, Paul Avery Smith, Chris & Vicki Sommerich, Brad & Jackie Southwick, Kate Speck, Bill & Sandy Spielman, Faye Stevens, Joe & Mary Swoboda, Mark Taylor, Eric Teegerstrom, Dennis & Laura Tegtmeier, Tim, Sheila & Hannah Terrell, Denise Terry, Michelle Thompson, Ralph & Melanie Thompson, Theresa Thomssen, Margene Timm, Bob & Karen Truka, Margaret C. Tyler, Bill & Rose Marie Utley, Cheryl Vajgt, Vicki & Robert Valente, David & Sue Van Horn, Jim VanKirk, Verjean Vannier, Jerald Varner, Peggy & Ken Volker, Bob & Marilyn Wagner, John Wagner, Dusty & Stacey Walsh, Joy & Rex Walton, Dan & Krista Warren, Jane & Ron Waserman, Bill & Naomi Wayne, Rita Weber, Mary Anne & Gary Wells, Bruce Wendorff, Ryan Whitney, Bobbie Kriz-Wickham & Kevin Wickham, Mike & Sue Wilkins, Mark Butler & Ann Willet, Dayle Williamson, Mark Wilson, Randy & Vicky Winter, Cindy Woldt, Larry Worth, Don & Mary Lou Wright, Kevin Wright, Jane & Paul Zillig, Brad & Elisa Znamenacek.



Joyous Season and a Very Happy New Year!



Welcome to the Great Plains Trails Network

The Great Plains Trails Network is a group of citizens who advocate and support a network of trails in and around Lincoln and Lancaster County, Nebraska, for jogging, biking, walking and horseback riding. Our website furthers our mission by providing ways for you to learn more and get involved. Thanks for visiting. Your support is appreciated.

Trail Map

Donate

Become a Member

Trail Construction

Cool Runnings Winter Festival

December 14, 2013

8:30am - Check In

For the Cool Runnings Race

9:00am - Race Start

Distances & Fees: 1 mile--\$10 3 mile--\$20 5 mile--\$35

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Bicycle Touring Training Class Available Posted by dena

The Downtown YMCA is offering a class to help people discover the fun and train for a multi-day bicycle tour like the Tour de Nebraska. The spring class begins in late January and runs right up to the start of the Tour de Nebraska 2014 on June 18. Classes will be split between spinning and speakers. Spin instructors include TDN veterans Rhonda Revell, Shari Rosso, Tammy Walter, and David Hill. When the weather gets nice this spring the class will include some group rides. Click on the title link for more information.

Grant to Help Fund "N" Street Protected Bikeway Posted by dena

GPTN receives a \$10,000 grant from PeopleForBikes to help fund the "N" Street Protected Bikeway! PeopleForBikes is a national leader in the movement to improve bicycling in

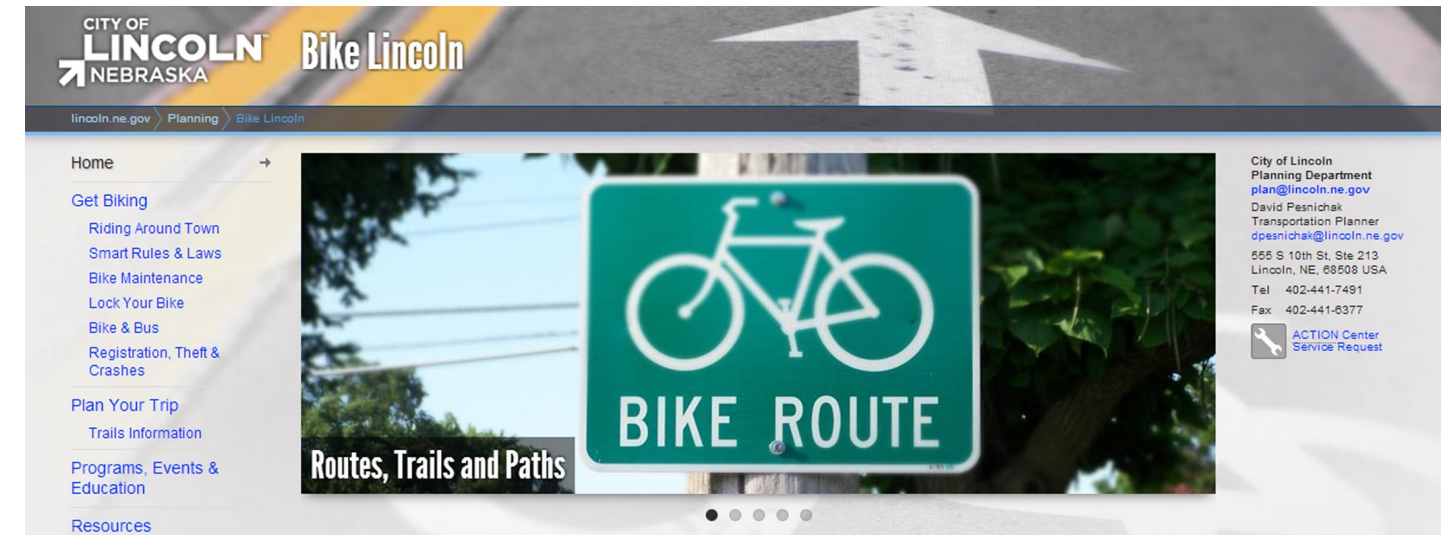
GPTN's WEBSITE: READY FOR ACTION ON THE TRAILS

Our new website has been redesigned to better serve our members and the Lincoln community. It is easier to navigate with a more descriptive menu bar across the top. We have buttons to quickly link visitors to some of the more important features of the site including the trail maps, becoming a member page and alerts on trails under construction. Up-to-date news and announcements are easy to locate as well as the link to our Facebook page. If you haven't joined us on Facebook you should!

The site's home page welcomes visitors with a clean uncluttered design, a rotating header with featured content focused on communicating events and news to our members as well as the community and the look and feel is more closely tied to our trail maps. The new site is being hosted by Firespring which offers GPTN more analytical data about who is visiting the site and which pages are having the most impact. This will help us be more adaptable to the needs of our site visitors. Board Member Dena Noe is our new webmaster and is doing an awesome job!

The most important improvement and the reason for the redesign is the new site is mobile ready. That means if you are out on the trails and not sure which direction you want to head, just take out your smart phone and let the adventure begin.

Visit the new Great Plains Trails Network website @ www.gptn.org



BIKE LINCOLN WEBSITE

The City of Lincoln Planning Department unveiled a new bicycle oriented website this fall. Simply titled **Bike Lincoln**, it has a vast array of information that may be of interest for bicyclists. From their home page:

Bike Lincoln is the City's bicycling information and resource site, featuring useful information on registering your bike and planning your trip as well as smart cycling tips, informative videos, links to local non profits and bike shops and applicable laws. Use the easy comment form to provide input on improving your Lincoln bicycling experience.

Lincoln is a Bicycle Friendly Community, designated by the League of American Bicyclists. It is Bike Lincoln's goal to create a safe, fun and healthy bicycling environment for everyone.

One of the best features on the site is a cache of short, well-produced videos that contain tons of useful information such as buying a bike, commuting, bike maintenance, riding with

traffic, bike and bus, and many more.

If you have any questions about rules and laws pertaining to bicycling, the website has a comprehensive list of local and state statutes to define these laws.

The trip planner is a handy tool incorporating Google maps bicycle routing service that uses trails and on-street routes to create safer routes for bicycling. There are links to a variety of other maps including GPTN's trails map.

There are many links to other bicycling resources such as local bike shops, organizations and clubs, classes, city planning, current projects, events, and many, many more.

There is a 'contact us' form for suggestions on how to make biking in Lincoln better. There is also a link to the City's Action Center Service Request to relay any unsafe infrastructure issues you may encounter while riding. Check out this great resource! lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/bike/



MARKET TO MARKET RELAY 2013

October 12 was the 6th annual Market 2 Market Nebraska (M2M) relay race. This year's race featured 4,000 runners of 500 teams running the 78-mile relay style race from Omaha's Memorial Park to the Haymarket in Lincoln. There are 20 exchange points along the route. There was also a 50k single runner race which started near Murdock. 200 racers participated in the 50k event this year.

A large portion of the race is run along the MoPac Trail east of Lincoln and within Lincoln city limits. GPTN had volunteers for two checkpoints along the route as well as volunteers at the finish line. GPTN was proud to be a M2M Charity of Choice. The publicity as well as generous donation from M2M helps GPTN's mission to support local trails. A huge thanks to those who volunteered! M2M Nebraska 2014 will be October 11. For more information please visit:

<http://nebraska.markettomarketrelay.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

GPTN's Annual Meeting February 16, 2014
Trail Trek June 22, 2014

Mark your calendars! More information to come.



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TRAIL UPDATES!

- The contract for the Jamaica North Trail has been awarded and the City hopes to have the project under construction by late spring with a fall 2014 completion.
- The renovation of Pioneers Park has been completed.
- Design has begun on the Wilderness Park Bike bridge between Pioneer Blvd. and Old Cheney. Expected completion by December 2014.
- The concrete for the Boosalis Trail has been poured but some corrections are needed before the City will accept the project.



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 Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM
 Sunday: 12 PM - 6 PM




GREAT PLAINS
 bicycling club

We actively promote bicycling with weekly rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles. We have ice cream or coffee shop easy-paced rides, hammering training rides, moon-lit rides, trail rides, and show 'n' go rides. We sponsor the Spring Fling in April and the Heatstroke 100 in August. We also promote bicycling safety through community-sponsored events. For more information and an online application, see <http://greatplainsbikeclub.org>.
 \$15/person and \$20/family.

LINCOLN IS NUMBER ONE!

by Damon Hershey

It was a cold wet day with even a threat of snow May 1st, the kickoff day of the 2013 National Bike Challenge. In the months to come we had temps in the 100's and high humidity. But this is Lincoln Nebraska, and we are accustomed to riding our bikes in any of the moody weather swings we have in the mid-west. And ride our bikes we did! Lincoln had 1,117 riders sign on this year with a total 632,358 miles logged. We where neck and neck with Madison WI for most of the five month long Challenge. And in the final weeks, we climbed to first place. The Challenge ended at midnight last night with Lincoln still on top for class one cities (population over 200,000)!

Finishing first in the nation is more then a feather in our cap. It shows that Lincoln is a bike city. For fun and for transportation we ride our bikes! This Challenge is a tool for us. We can show city planners, council members and the public as a whole that it is worth investing in cycling education and infrastructure. In addition, Nebraska was in second place for states.

Congratulations Lincoln and everyone that partook in this years Bike Challenge.

Top Local Workplaces	Top Local Riders	Top Local Teams
1. UNL <i>11th nationally & 3rd for universities</i>	1. Randy Reed <i>4th nationally</i>	1. Great Plains Bicycling Club <i>24th nationally</i>
2. State of Nebraska	2. Mark Rupp	2. Cycle Works/Moose's Tooth
3. Cycle Works/Moose's Tooth <i>3rd nationally for bike shops</i>	3. Brian Hermes	3. Team Eyeskull
4. Nelnet	4. Trena Reed	4. Lincoln All-Season Cyclists
5. TMCO	5. Randy Gibson	5. The Great Gadlies
6. Molex	6. Bill Dinger	6. Biking For Beverages
7. Lincoln Public Schools	7. Janine Copple	7. Team Hibou
8. Madonna Rehabilitation	8. Robert Tucker	8. Pirate Cycling League
9. City of Lincoln	9. Mick Meter	9. UNL Outdoor Adventures
10. Ameritas	10. Jeremia Grell	10. Sheclismo

LINCOLN WINTER BIKE CHALLENGE

by Damon Hershey

With our top place finish in this year's National Bike Challenge, we are excited to show how we are not just fair weather riders.

The Lincoln Winter Bike Challenge starts December 1st. and will end February 28th. If you are signed up for the National Challenge you are all ready to log your miles in the Lincoln Winter Bike Challenge or you can register at <http://www.endomondo.com/campaign/national>. The same guidelines will apply, all miles on a bike count (sorry, NO "trainer" or "spin" miles). Log miles as commute, sport, mountain, or transportation. But unlike the National Challenge the Winter Challenge is local only, no national prizes.

Lincoln riders are a hardy bunch and we want this challenge to be a fun way to show that. Or maybe this challenge can inspire new cold weather riders. We'll see you out there and ride on!

For more information, email info@bicyclincoln.org



Photo courtesy of Bicyclincoln