

Trolley cars may cruise Lincoln streets

By Brad Kuhn

A touch of the old to tie in the new — Lincoln shoppers may be able to reach Haymarket Square and the Cornhusker hotel/convention center by trolley.

City planners are negotiating a \$1 million transportation package that would include:

- \$20,000 for street improvements and traffic signal changes that would allow two-way traffic on P and Q streets west of 9th Street.

- \$600,000 for acquisition and construction of three parking lots to provide 185 parking spaces in the Haymarket area. The Haymarket is bounded by R Street, the alley between O and N streets, 9th Street, and the Burlington Northern depot.

- \$406,500 for the purchase of three trolley cars, benches and route signs.

The streetcars would be built on standard chassis with custom-designed streetcar bodies. The interiors would be finished in wood. The trolleys would cost approximately \$120,000 each.

The trolleys would be similar to those already operating in San Antonio, Tex.

The Lincoln streetcars would run every 10 minutes, eight hours a day, five days a week. Trolley fare would be 10 cents. The operating costs would be absorbed by merchants along the route, fare revenues and the city transportation budget.

The proposed route would tie the Haymarket into a circuit taking in the downtown hotels, the convention center, Pershing Auditorium, the State Office Building, the Federal Building, the Capitol and the Post Office.

The package is still in its early planning stages and cost figures represent rough estimates. The transportation package is part of an estimated \$3 million the city plans to invest in Haymarket. Private developers have already invested \$6 million in Haymarket.

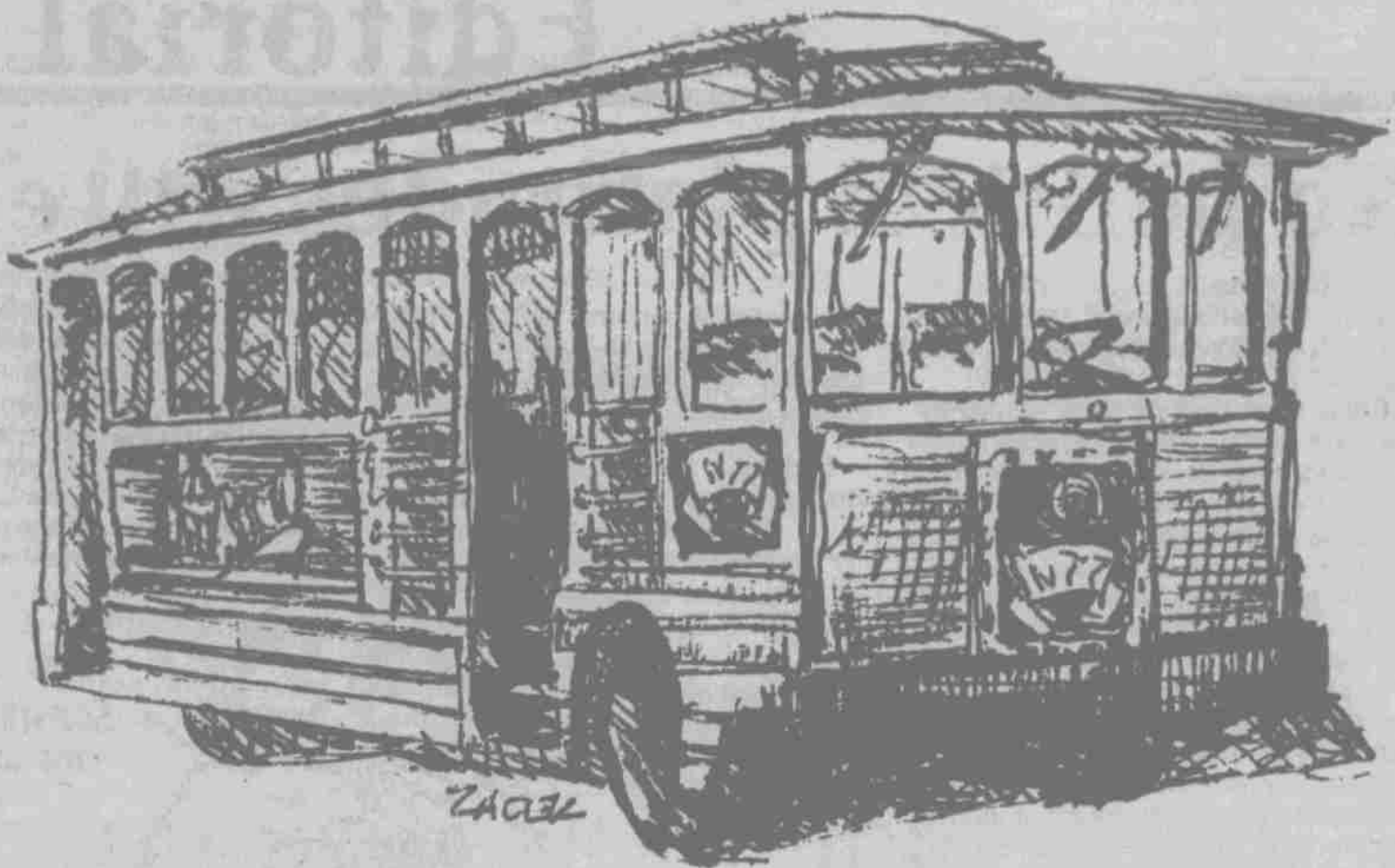
Dan Kidd, historic preservation officer for the City Planning Department, said planners anticipate an additional \$6 million in private investment during the next five years.

The city is seeking federal funds from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration to cover \$325,200 of the trolley proposal.

Street improvements and parking facilities might qualify for an Urban Development Grant Action.

Joe Gerdorn, city planner, said a UDAG would match \$1 in federal funding to every \$5 of private investment. If Lincoln qualifies for a UDAG, October would be the earliest date that federal funds would be available.

An additional \$135,000 could be raised with a parking revenue bond. Revenues from metered lots would be used to pay off the bond. The balance would come out of the city budget. The entire plan still needs the City Council's approval.



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Cultured milk products add lifesaving bacteria

Cultured milk products, such as yogurt, can save the lives of millions of people dying of dehydration in countries like Bangladesh and Egypt, Khem Shahani, UNL food scientist, said Wednesday.

Shahani, professor of food science and technology, said the addition of lactobacillus acidophilus, a bacteria found in yogurt, to oral rehydration solutions of sugar and salt would provide needed nutrients to children dying of diarrheal diseases.

Shahani said the high incidence of infant deaths in the two nations is caused by poor living conditions which account for a vicious cycle of diarrhea and malnutrition.

"The cycle of diarrhea and malnutrition will use up most of the water, salts, and nutrients in a person's system," Shahani said. "The salt and water can be restored, but not the nutrients. This leads to malnutrition and the individual becomes diseased."

Last year, 500,000 cases of diarrheal diseases were reported in Bangladesh alone. If 2 percent of those cases could be helped, 10,000 lives would be saved, Shahani said. He said, however, he is confident at least 100,000 lives can be saved.

Shahani said when antibiotics are used to kill bad bacteria in the intestines, good bacteria also are killed. He said lactobacillus acidophilus restores the natural bacterial balance in the intestines and improves the digestive tract. But, Shahani said the addition of lactobacillus acidophilus to oral rehydration solutions never will become a marketed product.

"The Food and Drug Administration would require years of research on the mixture and we don't have the time or money," he said.

But Shahani said he is not disappointed because the mixture can be added as part of a solution for cultured milk products.

Shahani said he hopes to begin a joint research project on the effect of cultured milk products on the prevention and cure of diarrheal diseases with the University of Dacca in Bangladesh.

About \$100,000 is needed for the project, which includes help from the International Center for Diarrheal Diseases, UNICEF, and Nestle's Nutrition Coordination Center in Washington, D.C.

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