

Floodplain plan to allow UNL expansion

BY JOSH FUNK

After more than 1,200 public meetings over the last four years, the Antelope Valley Plan to reshape downtown Lincoln and City Campus is ready for approval.

The \$225 million, 20-year plan will redirect the bulk of traffic around City Campus on a new six-lane road while alleviating flood concerns along Antelope Creek.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials adopted the Antelope Valley Plan into the campus master plan in 1998, and they are looking forward to its advantages.

"We're very excited about this and it will benefit our university," said John Benson, UNL director of institutional research and planning.

Benson said after the project is completed, the university will be able to expand into the area between Vine, R, 17th and 19th streets, which was off limits as part of the 100-year floodplain.

The 100-year floodplain is the area that could potentially flood in heavy rains.

"This is one area where we can expand within the campus," Benson said. "If we're going to grow in research activities, we'll need facilities."

Another benefit will be the reduction of traffic. Through-traffic will be routed around campus along the new six-lane road, and 16th and 17th streets will be reserved for local traffic, Benson said.

Last week, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning com-

mission unanimously endorsed the plan and cleared the way for an Oct. 30 public hearing before the city council.

If the city adopts the Antelope Valley Plan as part of its comprehensive plan, final design work can begin almost immediately, said project manager Roger Figard, who is also city engineer for public works and utilities.

Throughout the development of the Antelope Valley Plan, city officials sought as much public input as possible, Figard said.

From elements of four main alternatives identified in 1997, city officials and community members fashioned the current plan, Figard said.

"The goal has been consensus building," Figard said. "Consensus doesn't mean 100 percent (agree-

ment), but I believe this is a community plan and as a package, it is the best series of solutions."

This summer, the city completed its environmental impact study for the Antelope Valley Plan in preparation for the final round of approvals.

The Antelope Valley Plan would create a six-lane road along 19th Street from K to Q streets. The road would then snake east between the Beadle Center and Malone Center and come back west along an expanded Antelope Creek.

Much of the land along Antelope Creek is in the 100-year floodplain where new construction is restricted. The expanded creek would be able to contain most of the floodwaters within the creek bed.

Photos draw chaser to eye of storm

Photographer Warren Faidley shows his work and warns of the dangers of storm-chasing.

BY LISA BEHRNS

Contrary to the movie *Twister*, seven tornadoes don't often erupt in the afternoon, stop for a dinner break and then regain full force for an evening chase.

With 14 years of chasing storms under his belt, Warren Faidley, a full-time storm chaser and photojournalist, addressed this fiction and showcased his talent Tuesday evening in the Nebraska Union Auditorium.

Faidley's photographs of storms have been featured on the cover of *Life* magazine, used on Hollywood movie sets and graced

the cover of the *Twister* movie poster.

To shoot his pictures, Faidley often finds himself in the eye of the storm.

"There were times when being in the middle of the storm was almost the end of me," he joked. "But I still got the shot."

Faidley's first photo was a shot of a lightning bolt from 400 feet away. As he captured the first bolt, a second nearly killed him.

But he survived, the picture turned out, and Faidley's career was launched after the photo was published in *Life* magazine.

Contrary to popular belief, being a storm chaser isn't a full-time job, Faidley said. Everyone who chases storms has another 9-to-5 job.

Each storm takes on its own personality, which is one of the

reasons he accepts the challenge of being a storm chaser.

But storms aren't always as exciting as they're made out to be, he said.

"Chasing is about 99 percent boredom" while waiting for a storm to develop, Faidley said.

Faidley showed slides of his photography, which includes tornadoes, hurricanes and hail storms.

Faidley stressed the dangers of being caught out in a storm.

Storm chasing is becoming a popular hobby, but Faidley offered his cardinal rule: "Always have an escape route, and never underestimate a storm," he said.

With Faidley's book in tow, Brad Burke, a junior broadcasting and former meteorology major, was one of the self-professed Faidley fans to take in the event.

"Faidley is one of my idols," Burke said. "I do amateur photography work myself and work with local spotting teams."

Freshman theater major Lori Jensen said she thought storm chasing sounded interesting and admired Faidley's dedication.

"It's incredible how he seems to have everything down to a science," Jensen said.

Racial-profile resolution signed

BY JOSH FUNK

Four state law enforcement organizations joined the governor in signing a resolution against racial profiling and discrimination Tuesday.

The resolution was intended to reinforce existing policies and send a message that discrimination in law enforcement will not be tolerated, Gov. Mike Johanns said in a statement.

The Nebraska Sheriffs Association, the Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska, the Police Officers Association of Nebraska and the State Troopers Association of Nebraska signed the non-binding resolution.

"This is something that those of us in law enforcement feel strongly about," Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady said. "Two people of different races driving 10 miles over the limit are equally likely to be pulled over."

The effort was applauded by the Nebraska Mexican American Commission, the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs and the Urban League of Nebraska.

American Civil Liberties Union lawyer Amy Miller said she welcomed the resolution but it needed to be backed with action.

"We're starting to acknowledge the problem. (This message) needs to filter down to individual officers, and I'm not sure a proclamation is enough to do it," Miller said. The ACLU has a couple of racial-profiling cases pending in Nebraska, Miller said.

Casady said his department has received complaints of racial profiling but said the complaints did not have merit.

Even though racial profiling has become a popular topic for politicians, there has not been

much research to determine the scope or nature of the problem.

Miller said that several states — either voluntarily or at the court's order — have started keeping records of every traffic stop, even when no tickets were issued, to determine if people are being stopped on the basis of race or other discriminatory factors.

Nebraska State Patrol Col. Tom Nesbitt said in a statement: "I think it's very important for the public to understand how seriously we take the subject of racial prejudice."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

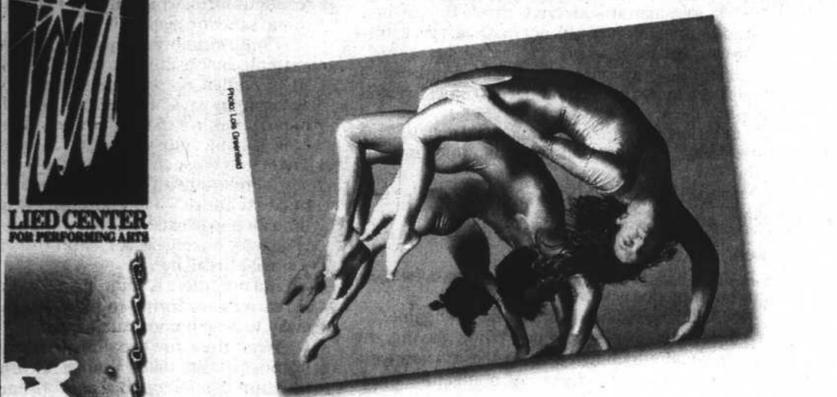


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Funded in part by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Doris Duke Foundation. Additional funding provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Philip Morris Companies Inc.

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