This charrette will examine how this 50-mile, six-lane corridor linking Nebraska’s two largest cities will determine future quality of life for Metroplex communities and ecosystems.

Special focus will be given to interchanges at exits 420 (Greenwood exit) and 426 (Ashland, Mahoney Park and SAC Museum exit) and to a new interchange at Pflug Road in southwestern Sarpy County.

Conservative population estimates beyond the present 1.1 million in the region project the growth at more than 2 million residents by the year 2050. Omaha has recently reached a new “market distinction” of 400,000 people, while Lincoln/Lancaster County has eclipsed a 250,000 marketable distinction.

The dynamics of four counties (Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, and Lancaster) seem destined to insure a steady-to-dramatic growth potential for the region.

The pace, the rate of growth and its sustainability will greatly depend upon the public policy and governance decisions.
Regional Challenges

Several regional challenges face I-80 communities as they address issues in Nebraska’s urban metroplex:

- Critical ecological systems are in path of rapid growth.

- Economic growth will not occur without attention to quality of life and the environment.

- The region’s most valuable natural resources (water, wind, fertile soils, a 4-season solar climate) underutilized.

- There is no shared vision of preferred regional growth patterns or land use policies.

- Municipal and county governments have very different, conflicting approaches to planning and public policies.

- Water resources are uneven in quality/quantity.

- Infrastructure is lagging behind growth pressures.

- Agricultural and urban growth interests are in conflict.

- Region does not see itself as a unit of common economic interests; competitive tensions exist between communities and threaten growth.
Seeking Regional Solutions

- Coordinate planning with other cities, towns and counties in the region. Conduct regular conferences, meetings, and workshops for exchange of information and ideas.

- Identify and publicize examples of best practices to be used as models for creating healthy and sustainable communities.

- Establish a consensus of the region’s most fragile natural, social and historic environments. Create strategies/mechanisms to protect these environments.

- Define policies that clarify or limit acreage development, protect rural lands for food production and natural habitat,

- Coordinate reviews of water-related policies to ensure equitable access to clean water for agriculture, municipalities, industry and wildlife.

- Encourage energy conservation and alternative energy production through effective planning and green building techniques.

- Encourage healthy lifestyles and rich living environments with compact, walkable communities.

- Create food-based, rural/urban coalitions; foster understanding of interdependencies of communities & natural systems.

tip: ideal outcomes should provide multiple solutions rather than one big solution; regional significance will be discovered through a multitude of potential concepts that make your charrette site more livable, sustainable, and environmentally appropriate.
5 domains checklist

- Environmental
- Social/Cultural
- Technological
- Economic
- Public Policy
1. What was the most positive aspect of the workshop in your opinion?

2. If this workshop were to be held again, what three changes would you suggest to make it more effective?

3. Was the time for the workshop too short, too long, or just right?

4. What do you see as an immediate action item you can undertake in terms of sustainability after participating in this workshop?

5. Should any topics have been added to the charrette? 5.

6. What additional training would be useful to you?

7. Other comments?

Name (Optional)