Downtowns across America had a rough go over the last half of the 20th century as the lifeblood of the urban core was drained away into the surburban realm.

Fortunately, many towns and cities are rediscovering downtowns not only for their economic assets but also for their symbolic and cultural value. They are truly the heart and soul of a healthy and vibrant community.

The City of Lincoln has engaged in a number of planning studies that have sought a balance between a healthy, safe and prosperous core and an expanding community edge.

The Downtown Master Plan process sought to guide actions and decisions that will shape downtown Lincoln for the next 20 to 30 years.

The Antelope Valley Plan kicked off a major road and waterway construction effort that will entirely redefine the eastern edge of downtown and the UNL campus and provide new opportunities for growth.

How will Lincoln capitalize on these unprecedented opportunities? How will it redefine thoroughfares such as the P Street Corridor and revitalize critical public spaces such as the Centennial Mall?
Urban Core Center, Downtown Lincoln

The central focus of this charrette will be the ‘P’ Street corridor linking the Haymarket District to the Antelope Valley Parkway.

What conditions and attributes will successfully transform ‘P’ Street into the downtown’s primary retail streetscape maximizing retail, housing, and employment opportunities; integrating and enhancing transportation options; and enriching economic, social, and cultural foundations?

In addition, how will significant public spaces, including a new downtown plaza and the deteriorating Centennial Mall, benefit from such a transformation and truly transform downtown into an economic, cultural and symbolic core of the city and the region.

Included in this workbook are copies of the executive summaries of the Lincoln Downtown Master Plan, the Antelope Valley Project, and the public realm framework of the Centennial Mall site.

The Downtown Master Plan seeks to ensure a vibrant and healthy urban core that continues to enrich Lincoln’s economic, social, and cultural foundations and lays out both a short term plan providing direction for immediate private and public investment opportunities, as well as a long term plan providing guidance for actions and decisions that will shape downtown and Lincoln for the next 20 to 30 years. The Plan is intended to sustain a place many will call home; a place where residents will work and seek an education; a place providing entertainment, recreation, and culture for people of many backgrounds and interests; in short, a vibrant, active neighborhood which residents from all parts of our community will be proud to call their downtown.

As the first Antelope Valley Projects are completed, the positive changes in flood control and transportation are identified as catalysts for major community revitalization of the Antelope Valley Area. The Antelope Valley Redevelopment Plan is a 20-year vision of that revitalization. It paints potential new community enhancement projects and reinvestments in broad strokes, while encouraging the private sector to use its creativity to fill in the details.
Regional Challenges

Several regional challenges face Lincoln as it addresses urban core issues and how they relate and connect to 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.
5 domains checklist
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?

6. What additional training would be useful to you?

7. Other comments?

Name (Optional)