



Citizens for Responsible Planning  
August 31, 2012

Lawrence City Commission  
Dear Mayor Schumm,

Citizens for Responsible Planning, an informal network of interested citizens, support citizen engagement in the planning process for the Northeast Sector Plan. We appreciate the past efforts to build community input into this planning process.

It has been our intent to supply authoritative, objective data throughout the public comment period for the Northeast Sector Plan. At the May 21st Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission meeting the planners in a 7 to 2 vote chose Future Land Use Option 3 - "No future industrial or neighborhood commercial south and west of the airport." On June 13 the Douglas County Commission passed the Northeast Sector Plan. Citizens for Responsible Planning concurs with these decisions for the reasons cited by the commissioners at their meetings.

Those points included:

- The Northeast Sector contains the largest contiguous acres of Capability Class I and II soils anywhere in Douglas County. As stated in Chapter 7 Industrial and Employment Related Land Uses of Horizon 2020, "The preservation of high-quality agricultural land, which has been recognized as a finite resource that is important to the regional economy, is of important value to the community." (Please note Exhibits A, B, C, D and E)
- There are 1,426 acres of future industrial areas identified in recent sector plans as referenced in a planning staff memo dated December 12, 2011. This acreage total far exceeds the Horizon 2020 stated goal of 1,000 acres. This suggests we have an overabundance of other sites within our county for industrial development.
- Public safety concerns for some 3000 downstream residents and businesses in North Lawrence that will be put at unacceptable risk of catastrophic flooding. Stormwater flooding compounded by the likelihood of river flooding and the consequent closing of the floodgates (such as in 1993) make the Northeast Sector a poor choice for industrial development.
- Extreme cost of engineered solutions to stormwater flooding and its ongoing maintenance in perpetuity coupled with the great likelihood of catastrophic failure make the Northeast Sector a poor choice for industrial development.

Our community has far better options when planning new areas for industrial development. We cannot afford either fiscally or from a public safety perspective to take on the risk of future industrial development within the Northeast Sector.

Respectfully,

Ted Boyle, Barbara Clark, Jerry Jost, Julia Mathias Manglitz, Deborah Milks, Charles NovoGradac, Lane Williams

Citizens for Responsible Planning Steering Committee