

# City of Lincoln

*This is the first in a series of articles featuring local governments using Blueprint principles in built projects, plans, or general plans. In February SACOG Board member Tom Cosgrove gave a presentation to both the SACOG Board and the National Association of Regional Councils regarding Lincoln's smart planning projects and how they pertain to the Blueprint Project.*

LIKE MOST CITIES IN THE SACRAMENTO REGION, Lincoln has growth issues to deal with. In fact, in 2003, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that Lincoln was the fastest growing city in California, with the population soaring 23.5 percent between 2001 and 2002. As a result, Lincoln is facing a transition, moving from a small city on the region's edge, to a medium-sized city directly linking to the region's urban core.

During the Blueprint Project planning process, the City of Lincoln approved an updated General Plan that incorporated Blueprint-friendly growth concepts into a 50-year growth horizon. "It just made more sense to plan this way," said Tom Cosgrove, SACOG Director and Mayor of Lincoln.

"The community development department works with property owners to rehabilitate existing buildings for modern purposes," said Cosgrove. "There is a definite benefit to doing things this way."

The City of Lincoln has excellent examples of rehabilitation and reuse of historic buildings:

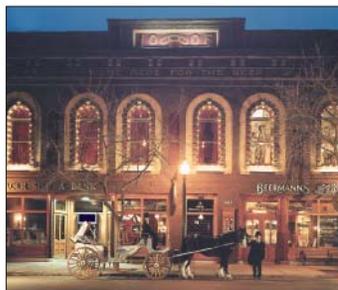
**Heritage Theatre** has an interesting past and a promising future. Once a thriving movie theater beginning in 1920, it closed and was reopened in the 1950s as a bowling alley. Left empty, abandoned and dilapidated for 20 years, the building was purchased by a local church and through reinvestment, has been reborn into a state-of-the-art multi-use performance theater and recreation center. The theatre has something for everyone — a venue for spe-



Lincoln Plaza



Butterfield Building



Beermann's BeerWorks.



Heritage Theatre

cial events, meetings and weddings and a large game room complete with classic and current video game systems.

Another example of reinvestment in Lincoln's downtown is **Beermann's BeerWorks**. Originally constructed in 1864 by the local Odd Fellows Order, the structure was expanded in 1905. The social hall became a mixed-use development, occupied by local merchants, namely Beermann's Meat Market from 1909 to 1950, and was restored in 2000. It is now home to a restaurant, a special event center, and a microbrewery, appropriately named Beermann's Beerwerks.

"The Beermann's building was a private endeavor done completely without City funds, and is a wonderful example of investing heavily in an old building to bring it up to standard," said Cosgrove. "It's beautiful, useful, and the historical aspects were kept in place."

Formerly a feed store, the **Butterfield Building**, located in downtown Lincoln, has

been a retail center 1883. Recently restored, it includes an Italian restaurant, a florist, an electronics store and other commercial establishments.

Across the street, on the former site of a burned business, stands **Lincoln Plaza**, a brand new mixed-use three-story building set to open this month, that will house retail shops and a restaurant on the ground floor and office space on upper floors.

In addition, the City of Lincoln is providing alternative transportation options by encouraging the use of **Neighborhood Electric Vehicles** or NEVs. NEVs are small electric-powered personal vehicles that can travel up to 25 mph, and have been integrated into transportation plans in Lincoln. Special parking, overcrossings and charging stations are popping up throughout the city to accommodate the growing popularity of these vehicles, especially among aging drivers.

For more information regarding projects within the City of Lincoln visit [www.ci.lincoln.ca.us](http://www.ci.lincoln.ca.us).