

City of Fremont Update

Date: August 28, 2020

To: City Employees/ City Boards/ Mayor & City Council

Governor Signs LB 866 – Municipal Density and Missing Middle Housing Act

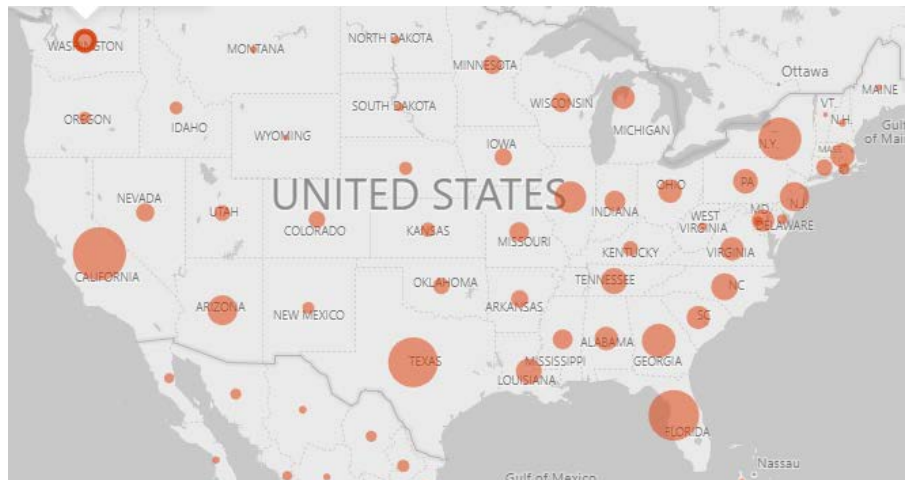
Last week on August 17, Governor Ricketts signed LB 866, enacting the Municipal Density and Missing Middle Housing Act, which affects Omaha, Lincoln, and any First Class city (including Fremont) with a population of at least 20,000. The law requires these cities to submit a biennial report to the Urban Affairs Committee, detailing efforts to address the availability of and incentives for affordable housing through its codes, ordinances, and regulations. It also requires an affordable housing action plan, which in Fremont's case, must be adopted by July 1, 2024.



The Fremont Unified Development Code (UDC), which governs zoning in Fremont and within the two-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction around Fremont, has several sections (11-602.04, Lot Averaging; 11-604, Bonuses; and 11-604.02, Affordable Housing Bonuses) that address some of the aspects of density and affordable housing incentives required by LB 866. The City will be hiring a consultant soon to go through the UDC. Since, we have been using the UDC for nearly three years, this will be a good opportunity to look at detailed specifics about affordable housing in preparation for our biennial report and action plan.

COVID-19

Here are how the 24 million cases of coronavirus are spread across the continental United States. California ranks first with 680,000 cases, followed by Florida, Texas, and New York with 609,000, 592,000 and 431,000 cases respectively. Nebraska has nearly 33,000 cases.



Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure

According to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) a multi-state intrusion campaign in 2018, led by Russian government cyber actors, targeted critical energy infrastructure sectors throughout the U.S. Fortunately, the intrusion attempt was unsuccessful, but it did not go unnoticed. Since then, CISA has established partnerships with financial service, electricity, and communications sectors to facilitate collaborative approaches to risk management and resiliency measures. The partnerships point out that cybersecurity is no longer just an IT (information technology) issue; it is an entire company issue that involves all departments.

There is no job so important and no service so urgent that we cannot take the time to do the work safely!

Best Cities to Live in After a Pandemic

According to Business Insider, many Americans are thinking about moving to a less densely populated place, especially after the pandemic. Business Insider decided to find out which “cities” would be the best to move to using economic, educational, and demographic data from government resources, as well as academic research that people might consider when moving. The measures considered pre-coronavirus unemployment rate, ability to work from home, population density, housing affordability, monthly household costs, cost of living, weekly two-way work commute, total elementary- and secondary-school spending per student, and share of residents age 25 and over who have at least a bachelor’s degree. Here are some of the results from bottom to top:

- 30. Danville, Iowa
- 29. Grand Island, Nebraska
- 28. Peoria, Illinois
- 27. Omaha, Nebraska
- 26. State College, Pennsylvania
- 23. Iowa City, Iowa
- 16. Dubuque, Iowa

- 14. Lincoln, Nebraska
- 11. Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- 8. Des Moines, Iowa
- 6. Ames, Iowa
- 3. Fargo, North Dakota
- 2. Jefferson City, Missouri
- 1. Springfield, Illinois

Water Pipe Being Cased

The picture on the right is Thompson Construction workers installing encasement over the City’s water line that will be under the new Southeast Beltway. This water line is one of the two 30-inch main lines from the well field, located south of town, to the water treatment plant on Luther Road. The encasement will provide an extra layer of protection from the new four-lane beltway running over the line, as well as providing a means of replacing the pipe (should it need replacing), without tearing up the beltway to get to it. Thompson Construction was awarded the bid of \$896,800 to do the work, which will be completely reimbursed by the State of Nebraska Department of Transportation.

The rectangle box that the workers are working in is a shoring box. Shoring boxes protect workers from getting crushed if the dirt sides of the trench cave in on them. The box can be slid along the pipe as the work progresses.



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