Governing Nonprofits in Network Governance: 
The Case of Transportation Policy in Omaha, Nebraska

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Abstract

Local governments in the U.S., facing budget constraints, increasingly partner with nonprofit organizations and philanthropists to provide public services in a network governance environment. Such reliance raises questions about the influence of these institutions on local public policy and administration. This paper is a case study of a public health “governing” nonprofit and its influence on transportation policy in Omaha, Nebraska. In particular, through interviews, documentation and secondary data, it examines the role of Live Well Omaha in promoting bicycling and changing the policy environment. It concludes by connecting findings to an understanding if the role of governing nonprofits in local governance.