Executive Summary

The Legislature established the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) in 1998 to provide advice, strategic direction, and accountability on information technology investments in the state. Section 86-516 directs the NITC to "annually update a statewide technology plan." *Nebraska's Statewide Technology Plan* for 2004 is the fifth iteration.   The purpose of the *Statewide Technology Plan* is to set forth the vision and goals for the use of information technology in Nebraska, with a set of action items that will guide the work of the NITC and its councils.

The NITC has identified eight strategic initiatives which address the NITC's goals of supporting the development of a robust telecommunications infrastructure; supporting community and economic development; and promoting the efficient delivery of government and educational services.   These are projects that would materially advance the vision and statewide goals as identified by the NITC, that are ready to be implemented, or that require an enterprise approach, involvement by the NITC and cooperation of multiple entities for their success.   By emphasizing selected strategic initiatives, the NITC hopes to encourage funding of these initiatives and to encourage state agencies to work together to advance these initiatives. Additionally, the NITC and its advisory groups have developed 11action items which support the NITC's strategic initiatives. The eight strategic initiatives identified by the NITC and brief description of each follow:

Nebraska Telehealth Network.   A telehealth network which connects all hospitals, providing access to consultation with medical specialists, continuing medical education, and bioterrorism training and alerts is critical to the provision of health care in rural areas of the state. The Nebraska Hospital Association, in cooperation with the Nebraska Public Service Commission, and Nebraska Health and Human Services System, is developing a plan for a statewide telehealth network.

Network Nebraska.   The primary objective of Network Nebraska is to develop a broadband, scalable telecommunications infrastructure that optimizes the quality of service to every public entity in the state of Nebraska.   Potential benefits of Network Nebraska include lower network costs, greater efficiency, interoperability of systems providing video courses and conferencing, increased collaboration among educational entities, and better use of public investments.

Statewide Synchronous Video Network. This initiative will establish an Internet Protocol-based network that will interconnect all existing and future distance learning and videoconferencing facilities in the state. Benefits include greater sharing of educational courses and resources; more efficient use of available resources; and one-to-many videoconferencing capabilities for alerts and emergency situations.

Community IT Planning and Development.   In order to compete in the global economy, communities need access to advanced telecommunications services and a tech-savvy workforce.   Businesses need to understand how to utilize technology to expand their markets, increase efficiency, and reduce costs.   Information technology can also enhance quality of life by improving access to health care, educational opportunities, and community information.

Nebraska eLearning Initiative. This initiative will promote the effective and efficient integration of technology into the instructional process and to utilize technology to deliver enhanced educational opportunities.   A standards-based eLearning strategy will provide students and teachers equitable access to rich instructional resources.

Enterprise Architecture. Establishing a common enterprise architecture for state government makes it simpler to get systems to work together.   Benefits include lower costs, easier interoperability among systems, greater data sharing, and improved services.

E-Government. Through the use of technology, state agencies can enhance information sharing, service delivery, and constituency and client participation.   Benefits include improved services for citizens and businesses, and increased efficiency and effectiveness for agencies.

Security and Business Resumption. This initiative will define and clarify policies, standards and guidelines, and responsibilities related to the security of the State's information technology resources. Benefits include lower costs by addressing security from an enterprise perspective, cost avoidance, and protecting the public trust.