



**MECA INVESTS \$100 MILLION TO MAINTAIN  
CENTURYLINK CENTER AT NO EXPENSE TO TAXPAYERS**  
*RECENTLY COMPLETED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN DETAILS AMOUNT OF CAPITAL MECA  
MUST INVEST TO MAINTAIN THE FACILITY*

**OMAHA, Neb., March 9, 2016** – For the past 18 months, MECA management, City officials, and others have worked collaboratively in assessing operations and developing a 20-year Capital Improvement Plan that will meet the needs of CenturyLink Center Omaha (CenturyLink) through 2035 and provide a roadmap for the future.

Based on the Capital Improvement Plan, an estimated \$70 million in capital improvements are needed over the next 20 years to adequately maintain the facility. MECA has spent \$33 million to maintain the facility since it opened in 2003, and will invest an estimated \$70 million in capital improvements through 2035. “As the CenturyLink Center ages, there is a growing need for improvements inside and outside the facility,” said MECA President and CEO Roger Dixon. “With these reinvestments, the CenturyLink Center can compete and continue to win the marquee events our community is so proud of,” Dixon said. MECA’s profits are dedicated to maintaining CenturyLink.

CenturyLink is one of the most successful venues in the world. Over the past 13 years, CenturyLink has generated billions in economic impact for the community and has become an integral part of the economic fabric of our community. MECA and CenturyLink have been a highly successful public-private partnership with tremendous economic benefits going to the community.

Given CenturyLink’s economic importance, MECA’s board began to work on a long-term strategic assessment of its businesses in June of 2014. MECA management, City officials, and others have worked collaboratively in assessing operations and developing a Capital Improvement Plan that will meet the needs of CenturyLink in the future. “For almost two years and at the request of Mayor Jean Stothert, we have been working closely with the City and stakeholders to develop a forward thinking plan that ensures CenturyLink Center Omaha will continue to be an economic engine for our community,” said MECA Board Chairman Dana Bradford.

With the assistance of City officials and others, MECA's management team took an in-depth look at three key areas:

#### *Economic Impact*

Through the work of economist Ernie Goss and more recently the City of Omaha, through the efforts of Omaha Finance Director Steve Curtiss and his staff, it was estimated that CenturyLink has and should continue to conservatively generate at least \$70 million in annual economic impact to the community. The economic impact of CenturyLink over the next 20 years is estimated to exceed \$2 billion.

#### *Capital Reserves*

MECA uses its profits to improve and maintain the condition of CenturyLink. Since opening in 2003, MECA has generated \$40 million in profits and reinvested \$33 million of those profits back into the facility with the remaining profits held as capital reserves for future improvements.

#### *Sustainability*

Based on the findings and conclusions of the Arena and Convention Center Committees that were tasked with assessing the competitive landscape of the arena and convention businesses, and assuming MECA can continue to operate competitively, MECA is expected to continue to generate, on average, an annual profit of \$3 million. The current capital reserves and profits generated by MECA over the course of the next 20 years are expected to fund the \$70 million in estimated maintenance costs to adequately maintain CenturyLink without any taxpayer assistance.

For more information visit [www.omahameca.com/RoadmapfortheFuture](http://www.omahameca.com/RoadmapfortheFuture)

#### **About Us**

The Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (MECA) is an independent 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that builds and manages public event venues in Omaha, Nebraska. The formal operations of MECA commenced on August 25, 2000 with the signing of a 99-year Lease and Development Agreement with the City of Omaha. The cost to build CenturyLink Center Omaha was \$291 million, funded through a public-private partnership. The private sector contributed \$75 million to the partnership, and the public sector contributed \$216 million. CenturyLink Center Omaha opened in 2003.

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