

ORDINANCE NO. C36080

AN ORDINANCE amending the City of Spokane's Comprehensive Plan by repealing "Fast Forward Spokane Downtown Plan Update" passed on December 22, 2008; and adopting a new subarea plan, "Spokane Downtown Plan."

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act (GMA) in 1990 requiring, among other things, the development of new comprehensive plans for cities such as Spokane (chapter 36.70A RCW); and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the GMA, the City of Spokane adopted a Comprehensive Plan on May 21, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the GMA generally limits the frequency of amendments of comprehensive plans, but provides an exception for the initial adoption of a subarea plan (RCW 36.70A.130(2)(a)); and

WHEREAS, downtown Spokane has undergone dramatic growth, revitalization, and related planning efforts over the past decade resulting in significantly changed circumstances, community vision, and sustainable economic growth, creating the need for a new subarea plan consistent with public input; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane Comprehensive Plan designates downtown as the City's only Regional Center and directs resources towards planning the growth and development of this center; and

WHEREAS, this update to the City's downtown specific plan is intended to stimulate economic activity by providing guidance for future development and design, support an active community through the provision of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, create new housing choices to attract population growth, preserve and enhance historic character, enhance economic, social, and cultural opportunities for the city and region, and work towards sustainable growth for Downtown; and

WHEREAS, the downtown planning area boundary has been expanded to the east to include all portions of the 2020 South University District Subarea Plan under Ordinance C35925 and Resolution 2020-0060; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City of Spokane and the Downtown Spokane Partnership ("DSP") agreed to replace "Fast Forward Spokane: Downtown Plan Update" providing a vision and a new set of goals and recommendations for Downtown in a manner consistent with public input; and

WHEREAS, the City complied with RCW 36.70A.370 in the process of developing and adopting this subarea plan; and

WHEREAS, as outlined in RCW 36.70A.035 the public participation requirements of the GMA were met through information provided to the community through postings on the City's website; through the formation of a steering committee comprised of business representatives, residents, downtown employees, community organizations, and others

with known interests in the Downtown; through public hearings, open houses, workshops, and presentations to interested stakeholder groups; and through a mailing of brochures to property owners, taxpayers, and occupants of addresses of property located within the expanded Downtown Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, the City encouraged public participation, posted the proposed document, and provided information on the amendments on its website (<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/downtown-plan-update/>); and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane Plan Commission held workshops throughout the process; and

WHEREAS, the City conducted open house meetings in person on October 22, 2019 and February 5, 2020, and by virtual webinar format on March 16, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a State Environmental Policy Act ("SEPA") Checklist was prepared and a Determination of Non-Significance ("DNS") was issued on April 28, 2021, for the proposed amendments; and

WHEREAS, the environmental review and determination for the amendment fulfilled the requirements and intent of the Spokane Environmental Ordinances and the State Environmental Policy Act; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2021 the Washington State Department of Commerce and appropriate state agencies were given the required 60-day notice before adoption of proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan, per RCW 36.70A.106; and

WHEREAS, prior to the Plan Commission hearing, staff requested comments from agencies and departments and the required public notice was published in the Spokesman-Review on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, and May 5, 2021, giving notice of the May 12 Plan Commission public hearing and SEPA Checklist and DNS; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2021, the City Plan Commission held a public hearing on the proposed subarea plan, where the Plan Commission heard testimony from the public; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Spokane Municipal Code 17G.020.030, the Plan Commission found that the proposed "Spokane Downtown Plan" meets the decision criteria for Comprehensive Plan Amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission deliberated on consistency of the proposal, adoption of the Spokane Downtown Plan, amendment to the Comprehensive Plan by its adoption, and repeal of the 2008 plan, on May 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, during the deliberations held on May 12, 2021, the Plan Commission voted to modify the proposal to add two new actions proposed by the DSP: one related to police presence Downtown (described in the hearing as Action PS1.3), and another related to monitoring housing and shelter for low-income residents and residents experiencing homelessness (described in the hearing as Action WO1.5); and

WHEREAS, by a vote of 6 to 0, with one member abstention, the Plan Commission recommended approval with modification to the proposal of the "Spokane Downtown Plan" proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, as amended to include the additions of PS1.3 action and WO1.5 action as presented by the DSP; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission's Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Recommendations regarding the "Spokane Downtown Plan," and the related files are hereby incorporated into this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission further recommends that the City Council take simultaneous legislative action to repeal the 2008 plan and that all City policy documents and Spokane Municipal Code citations pointing to the repealed document be construed to reference the 2021 "Spokane Downtown Plan" until such time as policy and codes can be updated with the rewritten document title; -- Now, Therefore,

The City of Spokane does ordain:

Section 1. That the Spokane subarea plan "Fast Forward Spokane: Downtown Plan Update" adopted by the City Council on December 22, 2008 under Ordinance C34370, is repealed.

Section 2. That the attached "Spokane Downtown Plan" with the amendments adopted under Resolution 2021-0054 is hereby adopted as an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON

July 26, 2021

[Signature]
Council President

Attest:

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
City Clerk

[Signature]
Assistant City Attorney

[Signature]
Mayor

Aug. 9, 2021
Date

September 8, 2021
Effective Date

