

SPOKANE DOWNTOWN PLAN

framework



City of Spokane Planning Services
ATTN: Downtown Plan Update
808 W Spokane Falls Blvd
Spokane, WA 99201



Find the Spokane Downtown
Plan Online at:
www.SpokaneDowntownPlan.org



SUMMARY OF PLAN UPDATE

Spokane's Downtown Plan is a strategic, action-oriented document that outlines the community's vision of Downtown for the next ten years.

This update outlines the progress on goals from the 2008 Plan, when the City of Spokane adopted its last Downtown Plan, and new goals and strategies developed through the public engagement process. The Plan is organized into five sections that are summarized below.

Introduction and Background

The 2008 Downtown Plan highlighted where private development or public improvements could catalyze Downtown reinvestment. Since 2008, Spokane has made significant public and private investment through developing and improving a majority of sites detailed in the 2008 Plan, several of which were within Riverfront Park. As new opportunities and challenges have presented themselves, the time is ripe to update the Downtown Plan. In coordination with approaching enduring challenges, such as homelessness, the updated Plan will guide decision making and support the growing vitality and energy of local businesses and development Downtown.

Planning Process

The City and Downtown Spokane Partnership began the process to update the Downtown Plan in 2018. The resources allocated to the plan update and the scope of work are significantly less than for the 2008 plan. Therefore, some of the bigger ideas that were developed during this effort will require further planning and public process.

An existing conditions report, which reviewed current plans, trends, and recent development, formed the basis of preliminary ideas and best practices. These were presented to the public at a public meeting in October 2019. These broader ideas were refined into a draft framework and specific set of goals, which were presented at a second public meeting in February 2020. The results of these engagements form the basis of this Plan. The City, DSP and planning consultants held several meetings with a steering committee representing stakeholder groups throughout the process as well as a meeting with the DSP board.

Plan Framework

The plan framework provides a preferred vision and outlines overarching goals to guide Downtown Spokane as it continues to grow and evolve. These five goals represent vital parts of a vibrant Downtown that attracts and serves local visitors:

- ☐ A connected and walkable Downtown;
- ☐ Thriving arts, culture and historic places;
- ☐ A great place to live, work, and play;
- ☐ Welcoming and engaging public spaces for all; and
- ☐ A well-organized Downtown.

The Plan

The Plan section includes specific policies and actions for each of the five goals mentioned above, bringing together and building on the City's planning, policy, and design projects to move Downtown Spokane toward an ambitious vision.

Implementation and Monitoring

Decision makers will use the actions in the Plan to move the community toward that vision. The implementation section of the Plan prioritizes the recommended actions to advance the Plan's vision, goals, and strategies, based on the ability to make an immediate impact toward achieving that vision, potential costs, and the timeframe for implementation. Measures of success detailed in this section will allow DSP and the City to track progress on implementation of the Downtown Plan. These indicators help keep the Plan transparent and responsive to what the community wants.

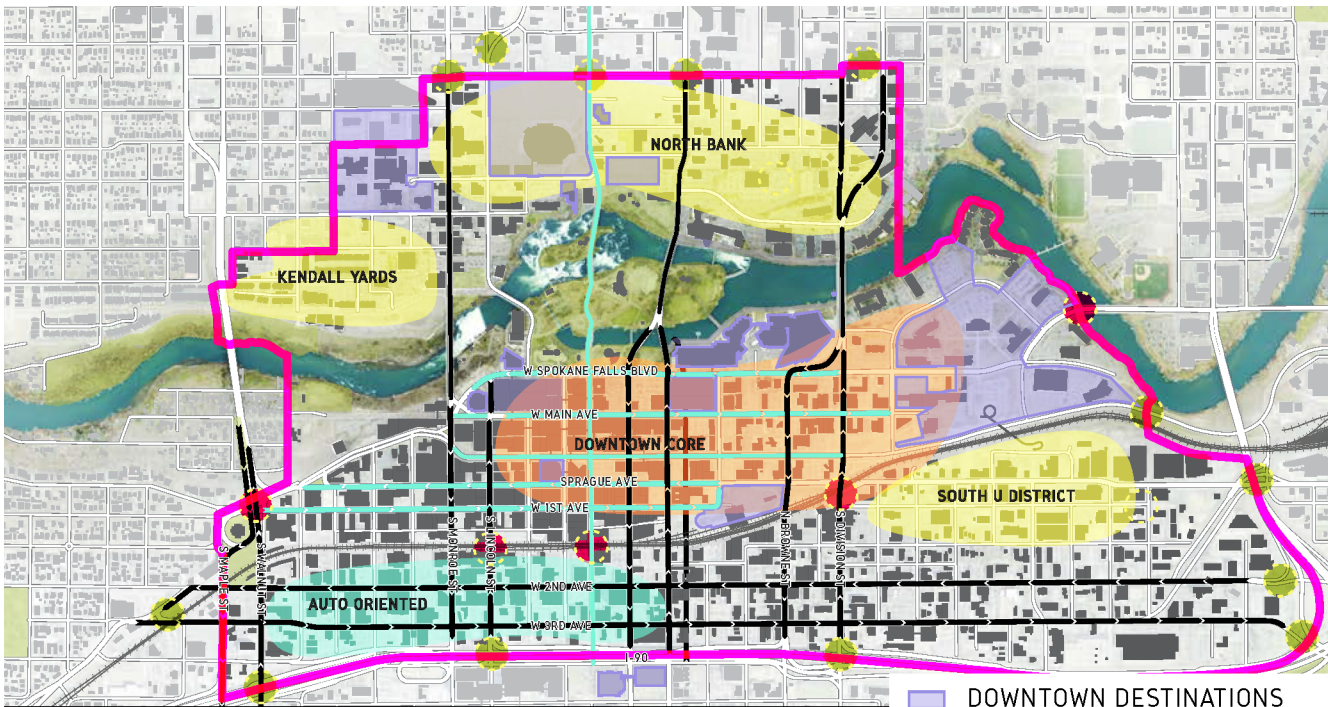
WHAT ARE THE PLAN PRIORITIES?

Below is a sampling from the 15 top priority actions based on the goals and vision in the plan, and the value of projects in the past ten years, that will be possible within the next ten years Downtown:

- ☐ Transform low traffic streets that are oversized for projected traffic.
- ☐ Make sidewalks active and vibrant places in partnership with local businesses Downtown.
- ☐ Improve certain alleys as pedestrian spaces, where improvements add to connections and active spaces Downtown.
- ☐ Improve pedestrian experience and safety at undercrossings beneath the rail viaduct and I-90.
- ☐ Identify sites that can help foster small businesses, local start-ups, and organizations.
- ☐ Pursue redevelopment of the existing surface parking lots along Spokane Falls Blvd.



- ☐ Create an integrated network of small parks and public spaces outside of Riverfront Park.
- ☐ Strategically program and activate public spaces Downtown.
- ☐ Develop organizational capacity to actively manage and program public spaces.



DOWNTOWN CONTEXT

Context map highlighting corridors, development patterns, and gateways
Source: Framework, City of Spokane, Downtown Spokane Partnership, 2020

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 MILES

Focus on A Connected + Walkable Downtown:

Some suggestions for the community's game plan

- CW1 STRATEGY:** Energize streets and alleys Downtown as active pedestrian- and bike-friendly connections

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Fayetteville, NC



Toronto, CA

- CW2 STRATEGY:** Capitalize on the City Line and support the transit network with coordinated investments that improve access to transit

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The City Line is a planned high-performance transit line to and through Downtown. Its introduction will enhance passenger experience in the broader transit system and can reduce short vehicle trips in the Downtown during the workday.

- CW3 STRATEGY:** Reduce Impacts from Surface Parking

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Reducing surface parking and consolidating parking in garages would improve walkability in the city and at the same time improve parking options for businesses, employees, and visitors.

Find Spokane's Downtown Plan.

- **See** the full draft online at www.SpokaneDowntownPlan.org
Copies can be produced at a cost of \$0.15 per page or \$19.05 total (black and white)
To request a copy, please call the City Planning Services Department: (509) 625-6500
- **Tell your friends** and neighbors about the new plan and upcoming discussions.
- **Tell us** what you think! You may also request to be placed on the notification list.
Visit the website above for notices of upcoming opportunities to engage or write us:

info@spokanedowntownplan.org

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- **Join us** for a virtual public open house **Tuesday, March 16, from 6-8 p.m.**

To join online, find the meeting link at
www.SpokaneDowntownPlan.org

To learn how to join the meeting by phone,
call before 6 p.m. weekdays for instructions:
Dial **311** or **755-CITY** (2489)

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