

**CITY OF SPOKANE PLAN COMMISSION
FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING THE GRAND BOULEVARD TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE
STUDY**

A recommendation of the City of Spokane Plan Commission to the City Council in the matter of the Grand Boulevard Transportation and Land Use Study (“the Study”), prepared by the Comstock Neighborhood Council with participation from Rockwood and Manito-Cannon Hill Neighborhoods, as a guide for Grand Boulevard improvement activities in the vicinity of 27th Avenue to 37th Avenue.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

- A. The City of Spokane Charter, Section 73, provides for the establishment of Neighborhood Councils. The Comstock Neighborhood Council was formed according to City requirements.
- B. The City of Spokane is currently divided into 29 neighborhoods, including Comstock, Rockwood, and Manito-Cannon Hill neighborhoods which together generally comprise those portions of the City lying south of downtown from 17th Avenue to 54th Avenue, High Drive to Perry Street.
- C. According to City of Spokane Charter Section 74, Neighborhood Councils may review and recommend a plan to the City Council and the Plan Commission regarding matters affecting the neighborhood.
- D. The Comstock Neighborhood Council allocated Traffic Calming program dollars for the Grand Boulevard Transportation and Land Use Study to emphasize safety through the Comprehensive Plan designated Grand District Center with more opportunities for safe travel by all modes and all users and Spokane City Council allocated \$50,000 in to analyze existing land use in the Center and identify capacity for future growth.
- E. The City of Spokane secured the services of a consultant team for the purpose of preparing the plan (OPR 2019-0509), and signed a contract on July 15, 2019. DKS Associates (“the consultant”) was selected as the prime consultant.
- F. The City, neighborhoods, and the consultant held a series of focus interviews including neighborhoods, business owners, and Spokane Public Schools, two combined workshops and open houses and an online community survey for the purposes of collecting information from stakeholders and the public and developing the features of the Study from October 2019 to February 2020. The City has

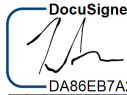
continued to take public comment from March to July of 2020 through email correspondence, along with feedback from City departments.

- G. A final draft Study was completed by the consultant and presented online for public review in June 2020 due to safety considerations for the public during the Covid-19 pandemic conditions.
- H. The Study documents the desires of the neighborhood for City decision-makers as they consider future funding and implementation measures for City plans and public improvement projects, specifically as they relate to future actions in the Grand District Center.
- I. The alternatives outlined in the Study are consistent with policy guidance in the City Comprehensive Plan *Shaping Spokane*. Particularly, Chapter 3 Land Use policies regarding land use policy for neighborhoods, District Centers as designated, Single-family residential areas, and higher density residential uses.
- J. The alternatives outlined in the Study are consistent with policy guidance in the City Comprehensive Plan *Shaping Spokane*. Particularly, Chapter 4 Transportation Goals A-G, regarding sense of place, transportation choices, accommodating access to daily goods and priority destinations, promoting economic opportunity, respecting natural and community environments, public health and safety, and maximizing public benefits and fiscal responsibility with integration.
- K. The alternatives outlined in the Study are consistent with statements for the desired future in this area as put forth in the 2014 Connectivity and Livability Plan developed with the South Hill Coalition and adopted by Council Resolution, particularly greenway connections, crossing improvements, and more walkable centers attractive to reinvestment.
- L. The alternatives outlined in the Study are consistent with the desired goals for the Traffic Calming Study requested by Comstock Neighborhood Council, specifically to address safety for all users of all abilities in the Grand District Center area.
- M. The Plan Commission recognizes the Study recommendations do not direct nor result in any change to land use or zoning, nor does the Study commit to funding of any public improvement in the Comstock, Rockwood, and Manito-Cannon Hill Neighborhood Councils.

N. Notice of Plan Commission hearing was published in the Spokesman-Review on June 24 and July 1, 2020 and the Plan Commission held a hearing July 8, received public comment, and voted to recommend the Spokane City Council approve the resolution recognizing the Study. Due to an abundance of caution the Plan Commission chose to provide citizens additional time to register comment if the July 8, 2020 hearing did not afford adequate opportunity due to online difficulties at the July 22, 2020 meeting. Hearing none, Plan Commission confirmed the vote to recommend to City Council on July 22, 2020.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

In the matter of the Grand Boulevard Transportation and Land Use Study, the Plan Commission recommends by a vote of 9-0 the Spokane City Council **APPROVE** the Resolution recognizing the Study as a record of the neighborhood's ongoing desire and effort to continue building vibrant, healthy, active, safe, and connected neighborhoods for all residents.

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**Todd Beyreuther, President
Spokane Plan Commission
July 8, 2020**