SPOKANE	Spokane Plan Commission Transportation Subcommittee Agenda Meeting Scheduled for 1/02/2024 At 9:00 AM Hybrid: Virtual/ Briefing Room	
VIRTUAL MEETING - SEE BELOW FOR INFORMATION		
TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE		
Public Comment Period:		
3 minutes each	Citizens are invited to address the Subcommittee on any topic not on the agenda	
	Briefing Session:	
9:00 - 9:30	<ol> <li>Approve 11/7/2023 <u>Meeting Minutes</u></li> <li>Chair Report</li> <li>Secretary Report</li> <li>Council Liaison Report</li> <li>Stakeholder Report</li> </ol>	Clifford Winger Colin Quinn-Hurst Jonathan Bingle PCTS
	Workshop:	
9:30 – 10:30	1) Bicycle Priority Network Study 2) <u>Spokane Reimagined</u>	Tyler Kimbrell, Planner II Erik Lowe
	Adjournment:	
Next Plan Commission Transportation Subcommittee is scheduled for 2/06/2024		

The password for City of Spokane Guest Wireless access is:

Username: COS Guest Password: K8vCr44y

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### **Meeting Information**

When it's time, join the Webex meeting here.

### Join meeting

More ways to join:

Join from the meeting link https://spokanecity.webex.com/spokanecity/j.php? MTID=m85f0885a31d70fd9367f99302ae014b2

Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 146 852 8754 Meeting password: PCTS

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only) +<u>1-408-418-9388,,1468528754#</u># United States Toll

Join by phone <u>+1-408-418-9388</u> United States Toll

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### Spokane Plan Commission Transportation Sub-Committee DRAFT Minutes

November 7, 2023

City Council Briefing Center

Meeting Minutes: Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM AM by Clifford Winger

### Attendance:

- Subcommittee Members Present: Clifford Winger (Chair), Mary Winkes (Vice-Chair), Colin Quinn-Hurst (Secretary), Charles Hansen, Paul Kropp, Michelle Pappas, Pablo Monsivais, Samantha Hennessy, Raychel Callary, Mike Tresidder, & Eve McMenamy
- Subcommittee Members Not Present: Kris Neely, Charlene Kay, & Jennifer Soto
- Non-Voting Subcommittee Members Present: Colin Quinn-Hurst
- Non-Voting Subcommittee Members Not Present: Council Member Jonathan Bingle
- Quorum Present: yes
- Staff Members Present: Colin Quinn-Hurst, Tyler Kimbrell, Angie McCall, Ryan Benzie

### Public Comment:

• Elizabeth "Liz" Wilson • Discussion ensued.

\*Joined at 9:04am Raychel Callary *Quorum Now Present* \*Joined at 9:08am Mike Tresidder

### Briefing Session:

Minutes from the October 3, 2023 meeting approved unanimously.

- 1. Chair Report Clifford Winger
  - Clifford reported that today election day and newly elected officials will be in charge of the 2026 comprehensive plan amendment process.
- 2. Secretary Report Colin Quinn-Hurst
  - Colin Quinn-Hurst informed the committee about the virtual open house tonight for Centers and Corridors and that the staff is working on updates thereof.
- 3. Council Liaison Report Johnathan Bingle
  - Absent
- 4. Stakeholders Report -
  - Paul Kropp, Neighborhood Alliance Paul Kropp asked about when the arterial system is going to be rescored. Discussion ensued.
  - Rachel Callary, Citizen-At-Large Rachell spoke on the importance of sidewalk accessibility during the winter.
  - Mike Tressider & Lukas Yanni, Spokane Transit Authority Mike has deferred to Lukas Yanni from STA. Lukas reported on outreach regarding the Division proposal and their presentations to neighborhood councils.
  - Eve McMenamy, Spokane Regional Transportation Council The SRTC had a successful transportation summit on October 19th. They are hoping to finalize their unified list of regional transportation priorities. SRTC is looking to setup an equity working group

and currently recruiting for a new transportation advisory committee and Associate Planner I.

- Samantha Hennessy, Spokane Regional Health District Samantha stated that SRHD is partnering with Priority Spokane to start a modified CHIP process (Community Health Improvement Plan).
- Charles Hansen, Community Assembly PeTT Committee Charles reported that the PeTT committee discussed a new traffic safety program and school safety.
   Mary Winkes added comments.
- Charles reported that the PeTT committee discussed a new traffic safety program and school safety.
- Jennifer Soto, Spokane Public Schools Absent
- Charlene Kay, WSDOT Absent
- Kris Neely, Plan Commission Absent
- Michelle Pappas, Futurewise No update at this time.
- Pablo Monsivais, Bicycle Advisory Board Colin Quinn-Hurst reported for Pablo (due to technical difficulties). He reported that at their last staff informational meeting they reviewed several city projects including Pacific Avenue Greenway, Spokane Falls Boulevard, Division and the changes to the Ben Burr Trail.
- Abigail Martin, Manager of Neighborhood Connectivity Initiatives for City Council -Reported on the Traffic Calming fund and budget discussions thereof.
  - o Questions asked and answered.
  - o Discussion ensued.

### Workshops/Presentations:

- 1. Centers & Corridors Update Study Transportation Considerations
  - Staff members Colin Quinn-Hurst and Tyler Kimbrell presented.
  - Questions asked and answered.
  - Discussion ensued.

### Meeting Adjourned at 10:36 AM

Next Plan Commission Transportation Subcommittee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 2023



# Spokane Reimagined

A proposal to repurpose existing rights of way to improve Spokane's connectivity, increase density, and spur economic development

Online Copy:

### https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RafbJ8ijHNosT9xFhhJEjGnr9\_NSOvug/view? usp=drivesdk



### Spokane and the Car



Photo by Young Kwak

Photo by Jesse Tinsley



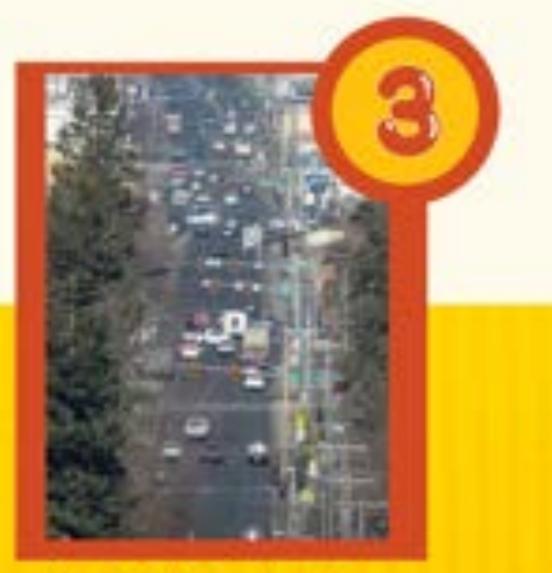
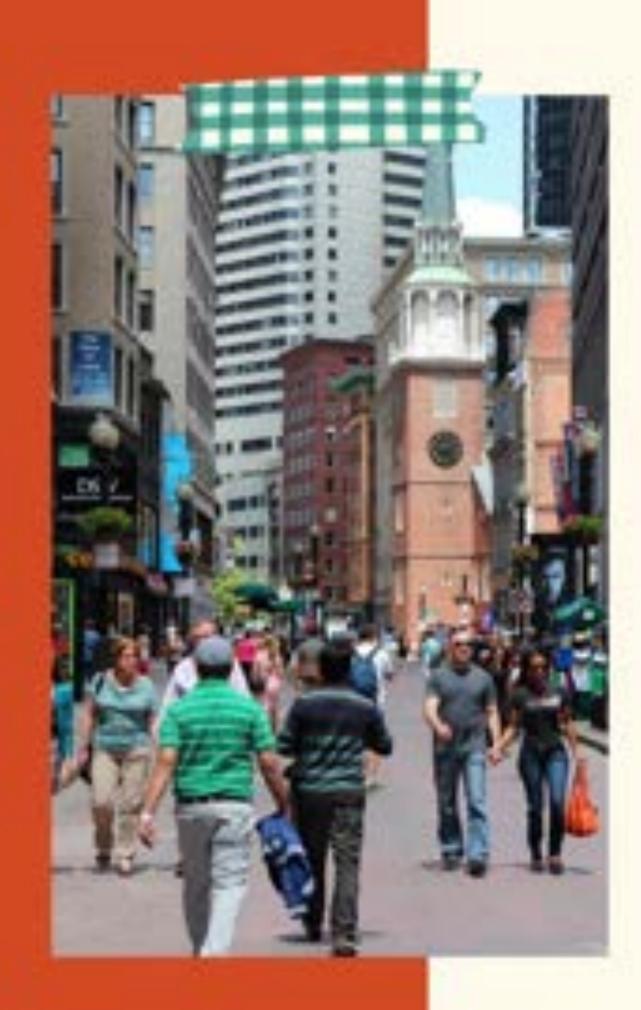


Photo by Jesse Tinsley





# Walk Score

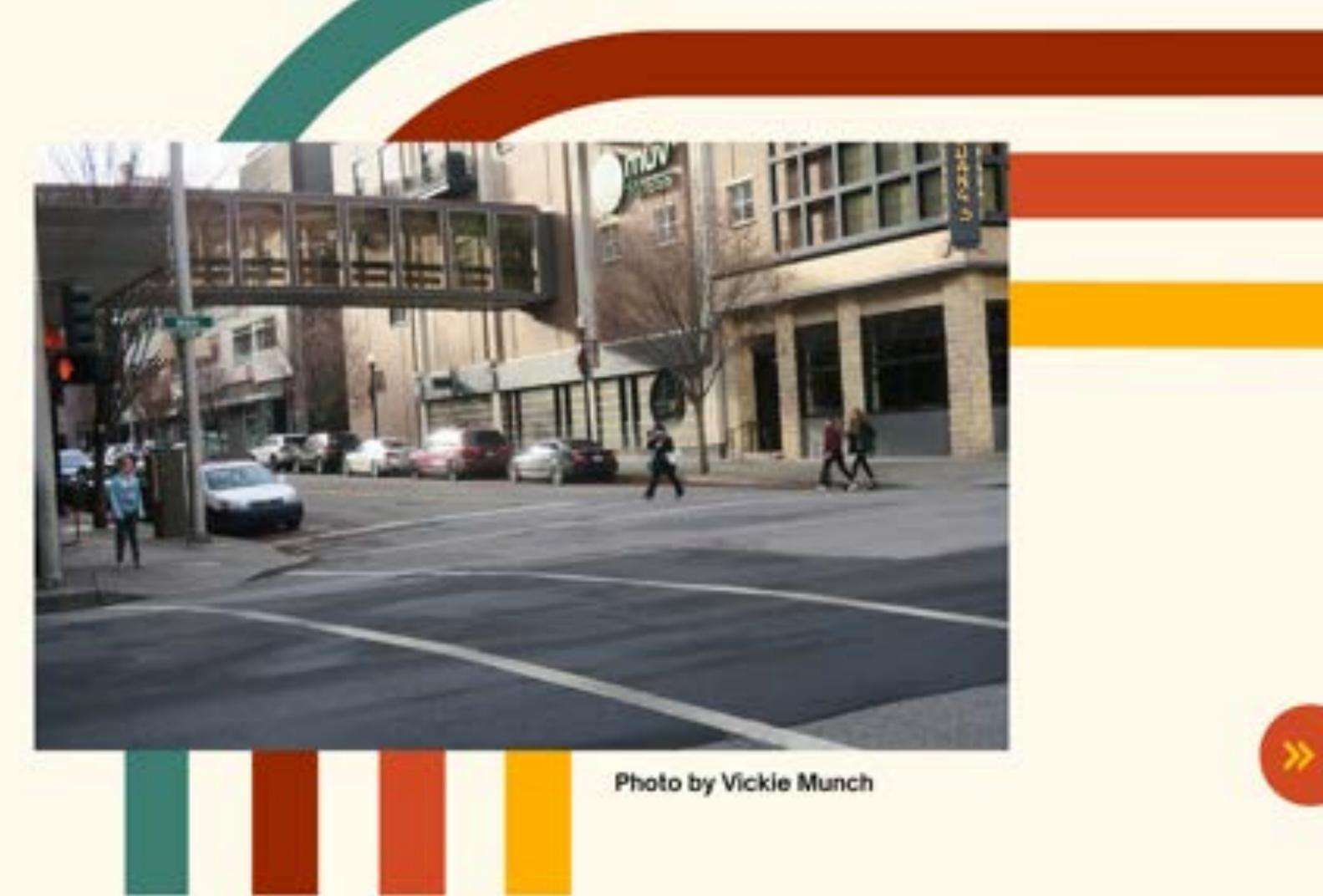
### What is a "walk score"?

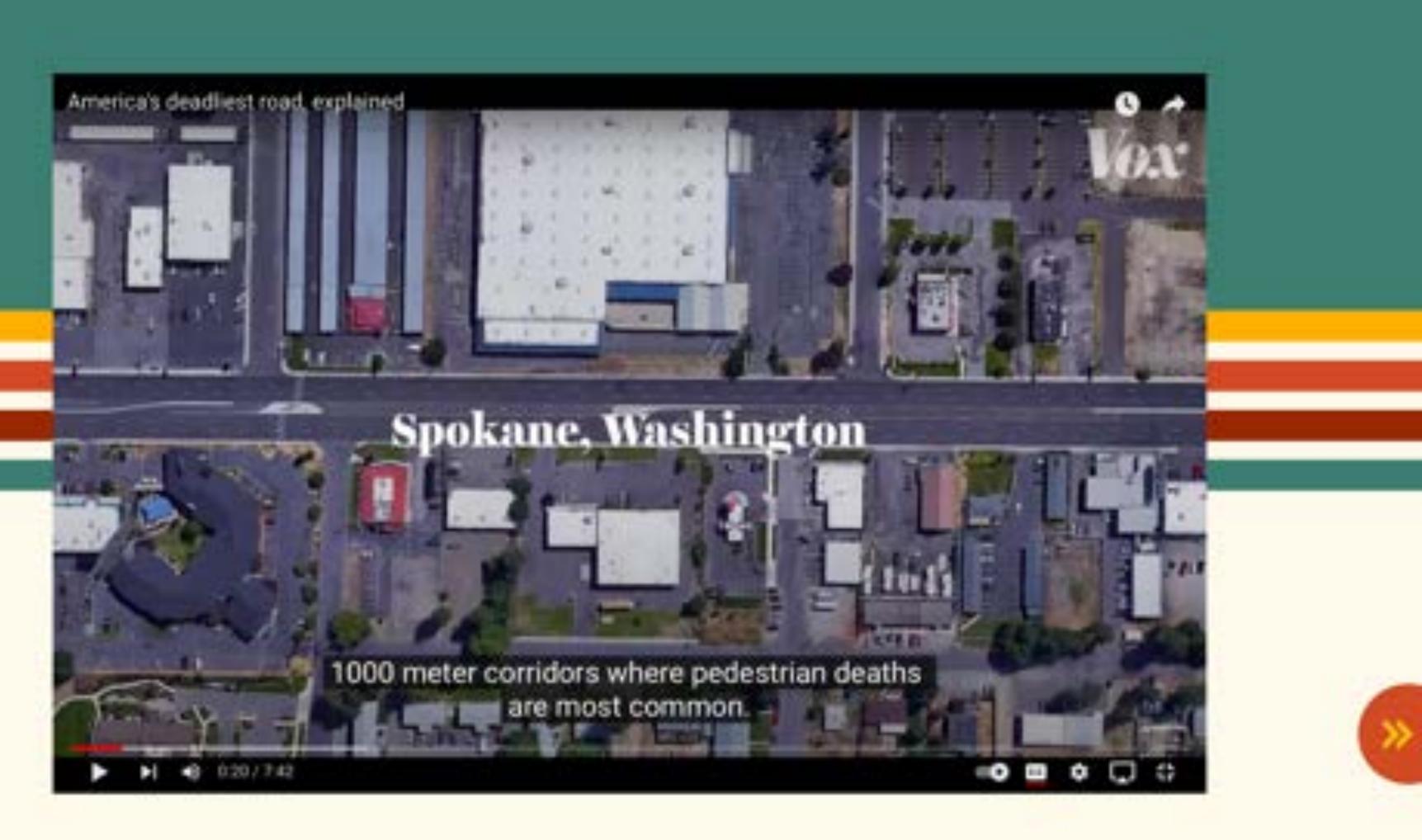
Increases property values Decreases vehicle traffic Improves health outcomes Increases economic growth

### What is a good score?

- 70 is the minimum
- Average in Spokane is 49
- Only FOUR neighborhoods are considered walkable







### That Did Not Go Well!

America's experiment with the automobile has been disastrous, killing tens of thousands annually. People started driving more recklessly during the pandemic and as fatalities, collisions and road rage continues, they don't appear to be slowing down

As hids Liviani

### The Exceptionally American Problem of Rising Roadway Deaths

Why other rich nations have surpassed the U.S. in protecting pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.



### Speeding car splits in half when it crashes into sign on 29th Avenue



In 1906, Spokane had two streetcar companies

- · Washington Water Power Co.
- Spokane Traction Co.

The streetcar lines are responsible for our street grid

Compare Spokane to Spokane Valley



### H



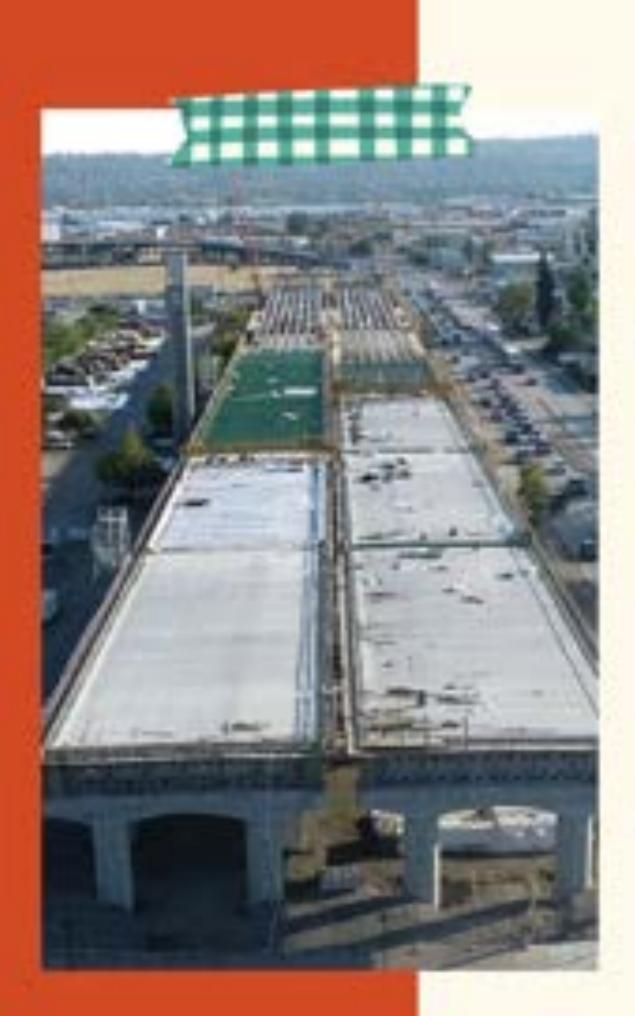


### 1473-AEROPLANE VIEW OF BUSINESS SECTION, SPOKANE, WASH.









# North Spokane Corridor

The solution to our traffic woes?

### Planning began in 1946

10.5 mile highway began contruction in 2001 Billions spent and numerous families displaced Nearly 30 year construction time

### When you build for cars, the cars will come.

- Induced demand

Build for the people who live in Spokane, not in Deer Park The solution to traffic is to get people OUT of their cars



### Marchetti's Constant

How we must think about commutes, traffic, and how we construct our communities

> Another way of thinking about this is most people are fine with a 30 minute commute, regardless of method, provided it is safe and convenient. It just so happens we've only made one mode of travel convenient.

Cities grow to the extent that their residents, using the prevailing travel methods, can travel 30 minutes each way for their workday.

Each lane added to a highway allows for more sprawl along that highway. It provides temporary capacity until developers finish building. The sprawl will start to wane about 30 minutes from the city.

# **Bus Rapid Transit**



City Line Opened July 2023



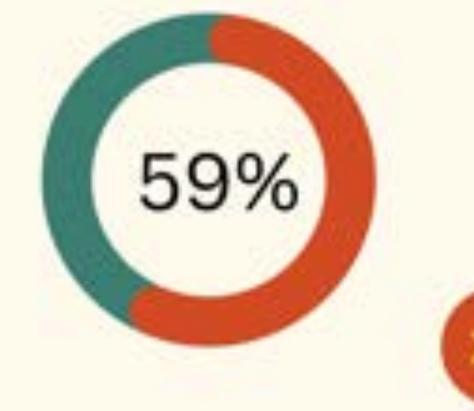
Division BRT In the pipeline





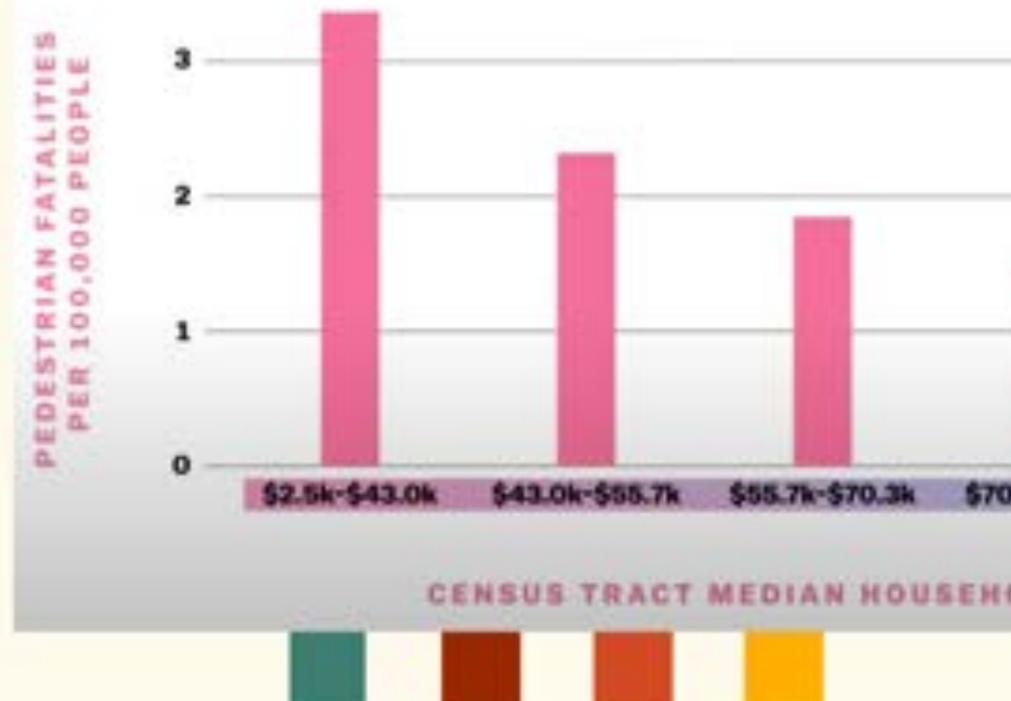
### Not Enough

Arterials Only Driving Still Most Convenient

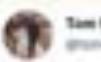


### Pedestrian fatalities per 100k people by census tract income SMART GROWTH AMERICA, 2022 TIES з OPL --< a. -2 1 000 ZX 1001 1 PER PEDES 0 \$2.5k-\$43.0k \$70.3k-\$93.1k \$93.1k-\$250k \$43.0k-\$55.7k \$55.7k-\$70.3k CENSUS TRACT MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

»







Tax Flood gran-head

There will never be a bell loud enough, a helmet strong



SISS AM - Jun 16, 2023. Tarmine Web App.





The veins to Spokane's arterials, People Powered Highways (PPH) would run parallel to most major arterials within the city, a block or two away from high traffic.

Immediate Implementation = Immediate Results

Opportunity for major infrastructure improvements including water, sewer, and cityowned fiber internet.



### Connectivity

Spokane Arena

Perry District

Spokane City Hall

Proposed paths would pass within three blocks of over two dozen schools, two dozen parks, and over a dozen grocery stores.

Kendall Yards







# Zoning & Parking

With permanent missing middle housing and eliminated parking requirements, every property owner in Spokane instantly has the ability to add housing without adding to traffic or parking woes.

### Opportunities

Allow neighborhood commercial uses along PPH walkable, mixed-use neighborhood without sound, pollution, or danger of motor vehicles



Allow even higher densities on properties adjoining PPH

Every generation has said they would pay more to live in a

Bicycle and pedestrian traffic allow for huge mobility gains





Spokane's most racially diverse neighborhoods have some of the worst access to goods and services

Some, like East Central and Chief Garry Park, are geographically separated from the city by rail lines and highways

PPH strives to address these inequities, reconnecting neighborhoods separated by freeways and railroads



### HHK





# The Environment

Spokane is known nationally for access to incredible outdoor experiences.

> We have some of the most beautiful parks in the country.

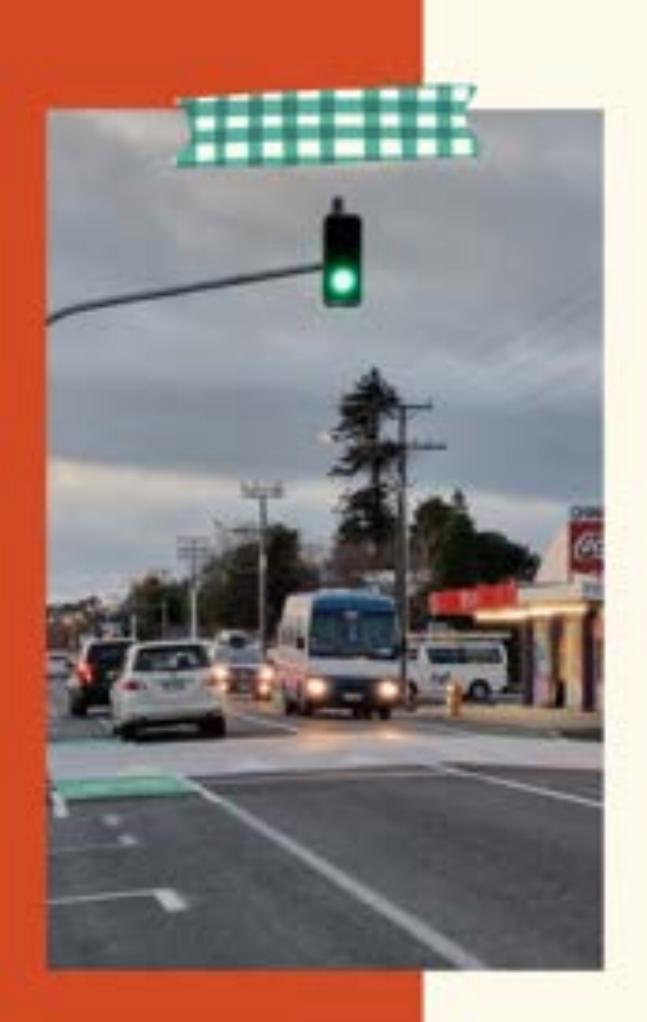
In a region where environmental stewardship is a key component to our collective identity, driving to our parks is a bit hypocritical. The Pacific Northwest will see an influx of climate migrants as much of the southern United States will become unlivable for months of the year. We have a duty to plan for their arrival in a way that won't further exacerbate the climate crisis.

> You can't AC your way out of a climate crisis.

Air conditioning can only do so much. As temperatures rise, people will struggle to stay cool. Adding shade to pedestrianized streets will have a citywide cooling effect.

# FIGHTS CLIMATE CHANGE





# Safety at

PPH crossings with vehicle streets will be given priority.

### Arterials

- Decreased speed limit

### Secondary Streets

Stop signs for motor vehicles at all intersections Raised crossings for all intersections



At minimum, lit crossings with flashing warning lights

Train crossing arms and raised crosswalks at some crossings

Increased lighting and curb extensions to further control traffic





# Connections **Outside the Grid**

Neighborhoods on the periphery deserve people-powered connections too. While we can't build a grid where no grid exists, we can still build ...

### Pedestrian-First Infrastructure

Sidewalk, trail, and bridge construction Protected and raised crosswalks Improved lighting and paving

### Neighborhood Improvements

- New public facilities
  - Fast-track projects already in the pipeline

Beautification (Art, neighborhood flags, fountains, etc.)



Minimal land acquisition costs as vast majority of land is existing city right-ofway. When possible, parks are utilized for pathway development. There are some portions (under 5%) of the proposed path that will require eminent domain.

## Land Acquisition

Pathways tend to avoid parking garage entrances and exits, but there will be inevitable complaining from parking garage owners. Those parking garages are catering primarily to those who live outside the city.





The PPH will adjoin STA plaza along at least one side, restricting access to transit and emergency vehicles

Transit stops and stations can be located at the intersections of the PPH and arterials, creating a citywide network of safe, carless travel

PPH use will inevitably increase ridership, allowing for STA to more easily secure federal funding









# Winter Travel

With retractable/removable bollards, dedicated plows could clear the PPH parallel to regular plows clearing arterials

### Pedestrian-First Snow Removal

- ATV plows and snowblower crews Year-round accessibility

### **Beautification and Tourism**

Spokane becomes a snowy destination The grid will have sludge and grime-free streets

Encourages the rest of the city to clear their sidewalks

The elderly, disabled, and Californians can all get around safely





Every neighborhood deserves to have small business districts that can be easily reached by walking or biking

Locally-owned shops and restaurants are the core of our tourism industry

Walkable business districts increase property values, provide jobs, and build community

A majority of every generation of Americans is willing to pay more to live in such a neighborhood





# Eyes on the Street

"When there are people present in a public space, such as city streets, it strengthens the space and inspires social cohesion."

Jane Jacobs



# **Cost to Build**

Anywhere from \$100 million to \$250 million

Voter Approval Required

- Price
- Scale of street changes

Voter approval allows us to bypass the loud minority of spoilsports and get things done



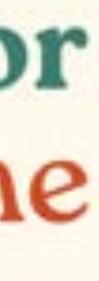


# Go Big or Go Home

Why stop at pedestrianization?

What else is possible?

What next, light rail?



# \* Trams!

First Ave. Tram runs from Browne's Addition to the Spokane Amtrak Station and back

Constantly moving (24/7/365)

Under 5 minute wait times

Security officer on every tram





- 1. Museum of Arts and Culture 5. Rocket Bakery, Brick West Brewing 2. The Elk, Pacific Pizza, Italia Trattoria 6. Fox Theater 3. Rosauer's 7. Knitting Factory
- 4. Grocery Outlet

8. Bing Crosby Theater

13. STA Plaza 9, Hotel Indigo 10. Montvale Hotel 14. Ridpath Apartments 11. Hotel Ruby 15. Davenport Grand 12. Davenport Hotel 16. Spokane Cornedy Club

# Construction and Acquisition Costs

	Cost	Project
Includes people new ped	\$250 Million	Property Acquisition and PPH Construction
Estimate of \$100	\$250 Million	First Ave Tram
Includes restroo	\$100 Million	Trail Amenities

## Notes

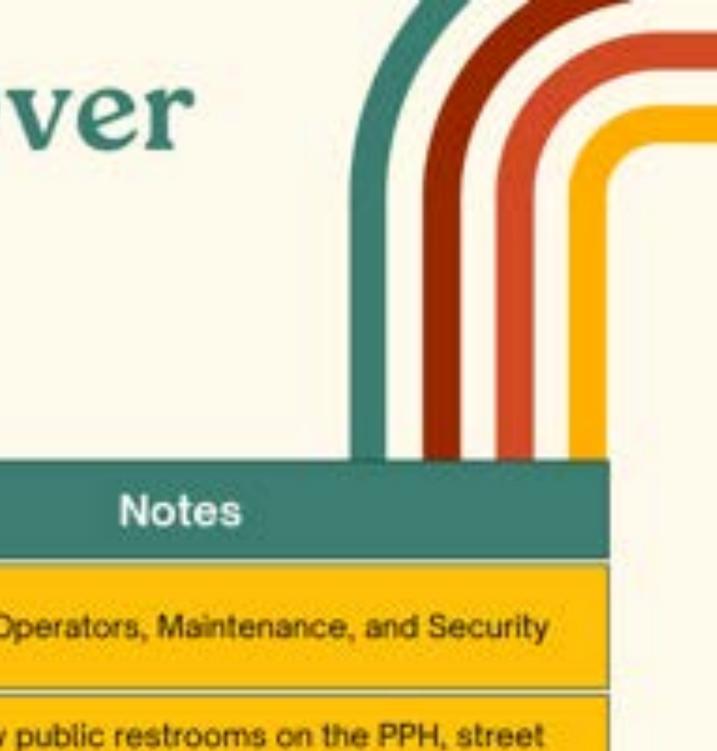
owered connections outside the grid, estrian bridges, and bike share

million per mile, the national average

ns, ball courts, fountains, seating, and shade

# **Operating Costs Over 10 Years**

Project	Cost	
First Ave Tram	\$100 Million	Salaries for O
PPH Clean Team	\$100 Million	Over 20 new c
Landscaping, Snow Removal, and Maintenance	\$200 Million	Includes team



cleanup along entire grid

ns for neighborhoods outside the grid

# **A BILLION** DOLLARS?!?!

How do we pay for it? Property Taxes!!!

> Aggressive taxation and conservative projections allow for huge upside.

New tax revenue from denser housing coupled with large federal investment could allow for decreased tax load in later years.

Per the US Census, there are 230,160 people living in the City of Spokane.

With a property tax levy equating to under \$625 per year for the median home (\$55 per month), we can fully fund this project in 20 years.

Seattle approved a 9-year, \$930 million transportation levy in 2015.



\$1.49 per \$1000 of assessed value.

\$600 Million in infrastructure

improvements

\$400 Million covering operations

including salaries for at least 10 years

## Do it right THE FIRST TIME

Now is the time to strike. Beat every city in the country to the front of the federal appropriations process. Rather than slowly trying to piecemeal a solution while trying to not inconvenience drivers, go big and build fast. Make drivers acknowledge that a cleaner, quieter, and safer city is worth the relatively short-term traffic annoyances.

Citywide rollout makes for more up front annoyance in exchange for long-term reliability, convenience, and safety.

The better the initial rollout, the greater the chances of success for future measures. Keep what works, fix what doesn't. People don't hate paying taxes for infrastructure, they hate governments squandering their taxes on costly delays and consultants.

A public vote with a supermajority, which is required to pass the tax, is more than enough justification to bypass traditional process.



Recap

For under \$220 per person annually to start, we would get the following: A citywide grid of safe, clean, pedestrianized streets that are accessible 365 days a year

20+ staffed public restrooms citywide, each with a family restroom, drinking fountain, and emergency phone

Every house in the city will be walking distance to a high-quality half court, fountain, and some sort of gathering place/pavilion

A 24/7, 365 day a year tram on First Avenue from Browne's Addition to the Spokane Amtrak Station

> Subsidized bike share for non-motorized bikes E-Bike and E-Cargo Bike share Free bike parking lockers throughout downtown

Every neighborhood will participate in design, but the process will be collaborative and additive, because voters already approved the work.

Tree Canopy Explosion!

## Recap Continued

But wait, there's more!

With \$600 million budgeted for acquisition and construction, that's hundreds of millions of dollars in jobs for local construction firms

25% of contracts will be with local small businesses.

Of \$400 million in operating costs over the first 10 years, over 50% will be salaries and benefits for good paying, unionized, city jobs

Half of the entire \$1 billion levy is likely to be salary and benefits for Spokane residents

Federal and state funds will allow for further infrastructure improvements

Private investment will skyrocket

## More **Tax Math**

Thanks to Covid, the median home price in Spokane has averaged 10% annual growth over the last 10 years.

> Let's assume a tax bill of \$1,625 annually over 20 years for \$32,500 total.

A fully realized Spokane Reimagined would provide well over \$32,500 of lifetime value for each Spokane resident.

Another 10 years of 10% annual price growth for the median Spokane home would bring median assessed values to \$1,089,371.

The minimum levy rate of 1.49 would result in a Spokane Reimagined tax bill of under \$1,625 that year for a median home.

Keep in mind, the median amount will be \$625 annually to start, not \$1,625.

tax bills.

The average Spokane home owner will see equity growth significantly higher than their

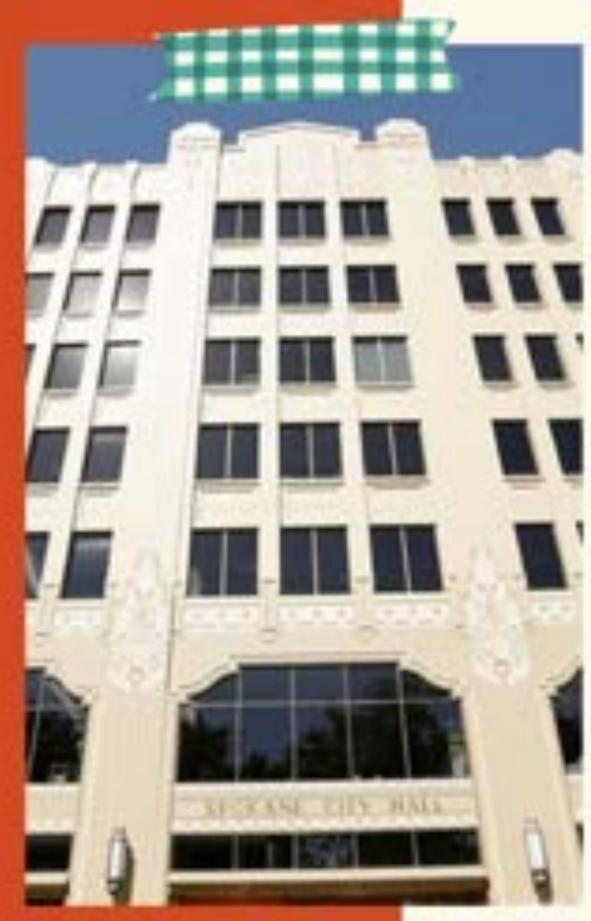


Photo by Young Kwak

# Future **Budget Ramifications**

As Spokane densifies, services become more efficient and property taxes go further.

## Conversion of City Streets

140+ miles of city streets will be converted to PPH

## Post-Levy

Rapid densification with fewer cars

Freeing up the funds that would be used on their maintenance Same amount of streets money with significantly fewer streets

Future operating costs covered by traditional city revenues A 20 year levy allows for frontloaded infrastructure investment



# Intangibles

	Higher Housing Density	Fewer cars on the road	м
	City Beautification	24/7 Safer Streets	
	New marquee events	Small Business Boom	
	Better health outcomes	Better educational outcomes	
	Private development	Marketing (Recruiting businesses, employees, investors, etc.)	Syn
	Household Savings	Retirement and Independence	R tra



Ainimal traffic disruptions due to construction

Federal and State Funding

Cleaner Air

Quieter and Cooler Spokane

ynergies (City-owned fiber network, new water and wastewater facilities, etc.)

Reliability (Never traffic when walking, public ansit optimization, paths navigable to anyone) »

## STANT Gratification

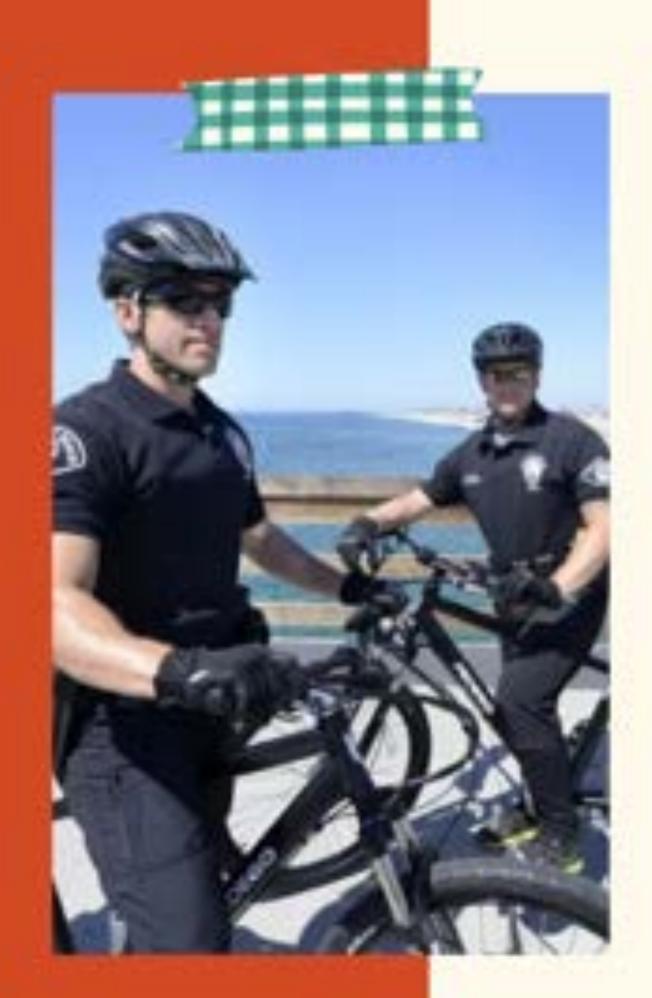
While permanent infrastructure and facilities will need planning, design, and construction, we can start the PPH immediately.

Opening the streets to people can happen at any time.

Install Manito-style crossings at arterials immediately, with the understanding that all arterial crossings will get additional traffic calming at a later date.







# Crime Prevention

Eyes on the Street!

### Get police out of their cars and into their community

Real community policing Emergency Phones and Lighting



Neighborhood murals and street art discourage grafitti

It is impossible to police your way out of traffic violence

Good infrastructure protects us all, including police Allows police to focus on other neighborhood concerns



## Seattle-Spokane International **Tourism Partnership**

country.

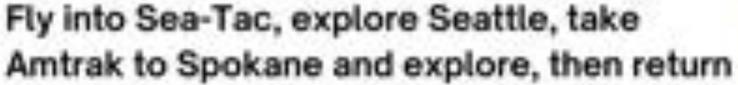
For some reason, American cities haven't realized how much Americans love traveling to, and singing the praises of, walkable European and Asian cities.

International tourists stick to destinations where they can be car-free

Trains are the default mode of public mass transit in most of the world. Let's capitalize on the Empire Builder.

the state.

No one feels safe driving in a foreign



Builds ridership, motivates and encourages Washingtonians to also take the train across



# New Traditions

With a remade city, we have the perfect opportunity to build new community traditions.

## Spokane Velocity and Zephyr FC

- Stadium Supporter March through Riverfront Park
- First Ave Tram
- **Bike Parades**

## **High School Rivalries**

Spokane Showdown Meet in Riverfront Park and parade to the stadium community, and get out of their cars



Safe and easy means for students to socialize, build





# and Play Clubs

City-managed calendar for neighborhood meetups

Meet your neighbors!

Make friends!

Stop and smell the roses!

**Bike Buses!** 

Halloween!







## Downsides

Taxes!

Major traffic calming at all intersections with PPH will result in multiple additional intersections where cars must stop.

Some households will lose free parking immediately in front of their house. Free parking will still be down the street.

Noise (Basketballs, pickleball, the laughter of children, etc.)



# Want more information?



## Visit us at SpokaneReimagined.org





#### A proposal to repurpose existing rights of way to improve Spokane's connectivity, increase density, and spur economic development

\$1 Billion transportation and accessibility levy (\$50 million annually for 20 years), at a rate of approximately
 \$1.49 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The median Spokane home would pay around \$625 the first year.

### The proposal includes new capital improvements:

- People Powered Highways A citywide grid of safe, clean, pedestrianized streets (over 140 miles!) that are accessible 365 days a year
- 20+ staffed public restrooms citywide, each with a family restroom, drinking fountain, and emergency phone
- Every house in the city walking distance to a high-quality half court, fountain, and some sort of gathering place/pavilion
- First Ave Tram A 24/7, 365 day a year tram traveling 2.5 miles on First Avenue from Browne's Addition to the Spokane Amtrak Station
- Free bike parking lockers throughout downtown
- For neighborhoods not covered by the PPH, protected pedestrian and cycle paths, crossings, and other safety improvements

#### It also provides startup and operational funding for the following services and city jobs:

- City owned and operated bike share with nonmotorized bikes, e-bikes, and cargo bikes
- First Ave Tram operators, maintenance, and security staff
- People Powered Highways Clean Team
- Dedicated landscaping, snow removal, and maintenance on pathways

#### **Projected capital costs:**

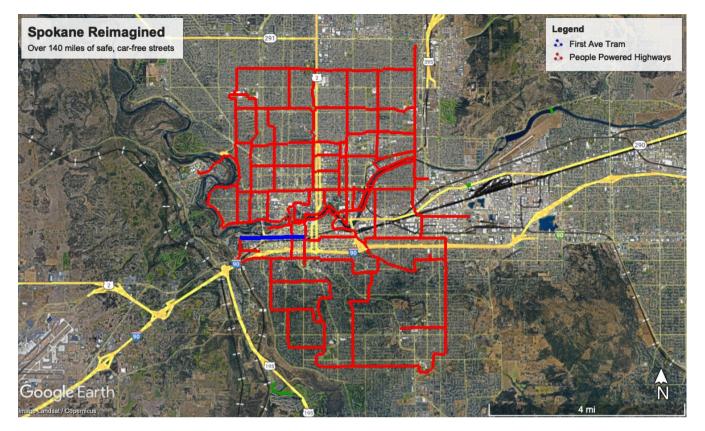
- \$250 million Property acquisition and construction of People Powered Highways, people powered connections outside the grid, and bike share
- \$250 million First Ave Tram
- \$100 million New neighborhood amenities (restrooms, fountains, pavilions, ball courts, etc.)

## Projected operating costs over 10 years:

- \$100 million First Ave Tram
- \$100 million PPH Clean Team
- \$200 million Landscaping, snow removal, and maintenance



For more information, visit us at SpokaneReimagined.org



**First Ave Tram Map** 



- 3. Rosauer's
- 4. Grocery Outlet
- 7. Knitting Factory
- 8. Bing Crosby Theater
- 11. Hotel Ruby
- 15. Davenport Grand 12. Davenport Hotel 16. Spokane Comedy Club