

# ReFIVE

*a community plan for fifth avenue*

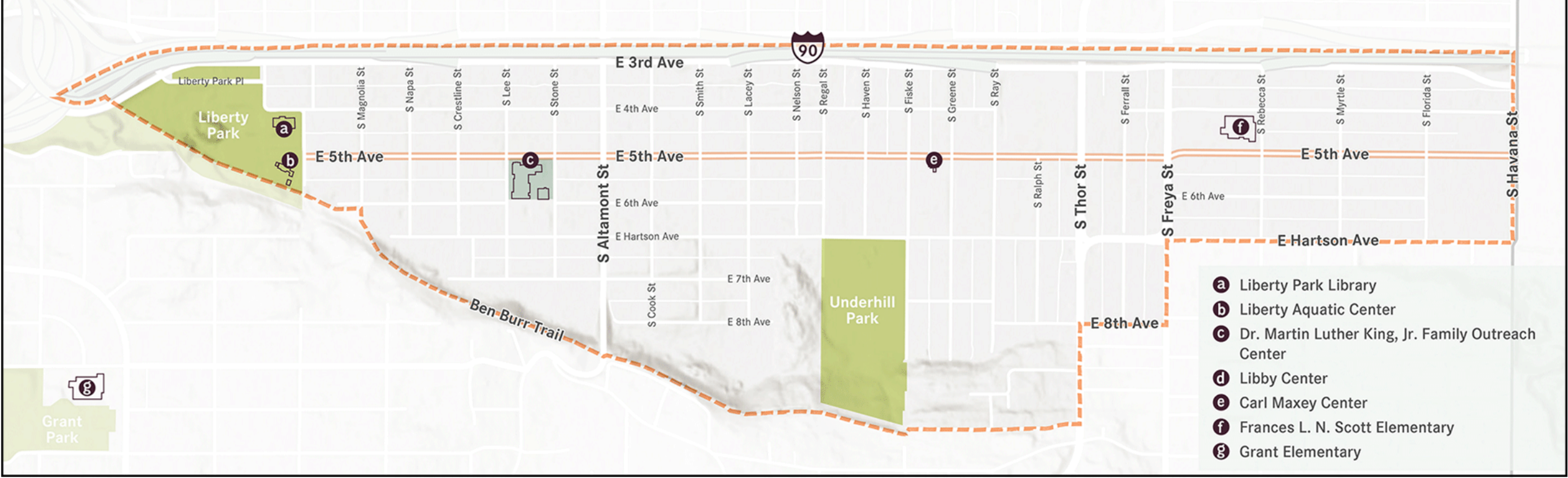
## Draft Plan Overview

Transportation Commission Workshop | June 17, 2026



# ReFIVE PLANNING AREA MAP

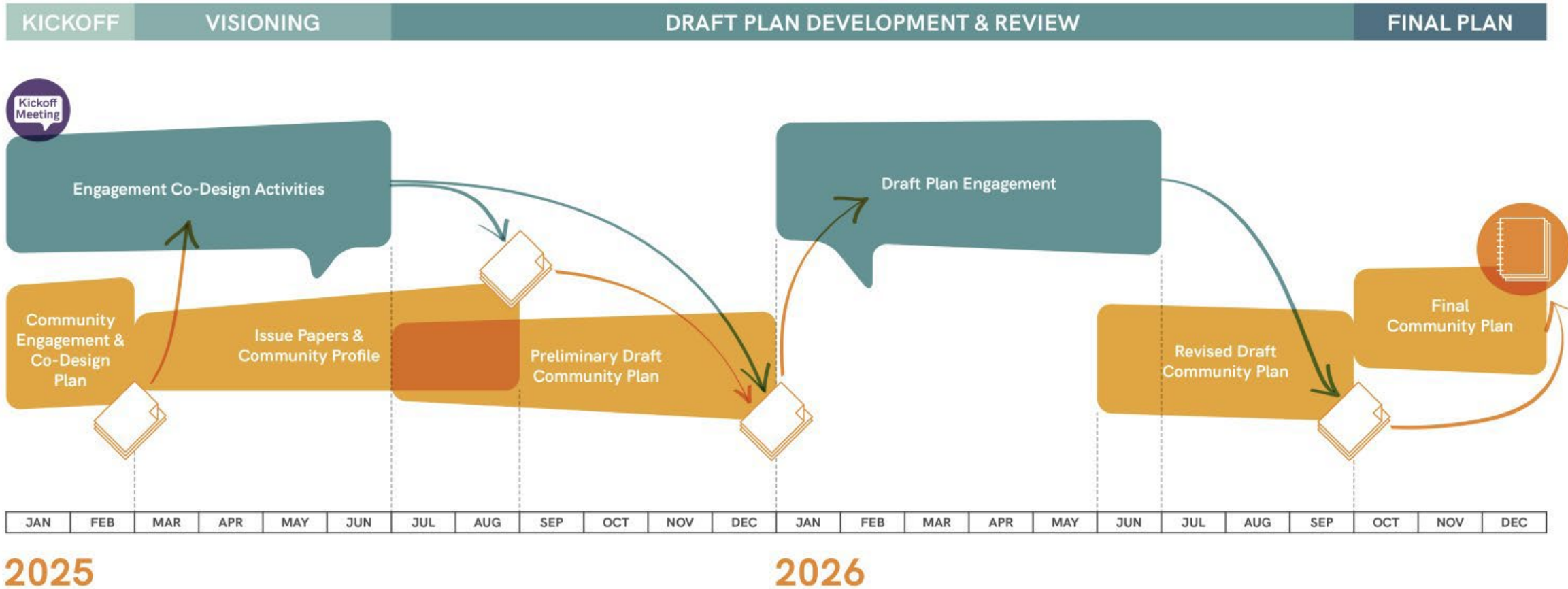
*a community plan for fifth avenue*



- a** Liberty Park Library
- b** Liberty Aquatic Center
- c** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Outreach Center
- d** Libby Center
- e** Carl Maxey Center
- f** Frances L. N. Scott Elementary
- g** Grant Elementary

The **5<sup>th</sup> Avenue planning area** is focused on the area and community south of I-90 in the East Central Neighborhood centered along East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a 1.75-mile corridor that connects Liberty Park to Frances Scott Elementary School and the city boundary at Havana Street.

# ReFIVE Plan Project Arc



# How are we listening?

## Community Conversations

Interviews and Listening Sessions, Jan 2025 - Feb 2025

Property Owners & Stakeholder Outreach, March – May 2026

## Community Working Group

Monthly Meetings, February 2025 - ongoing

## Visioning Events

Frances Scott Elementary School Arts Gala, April 2025 & 2026

Grant Park Celebration, Juneteenth 2025

MLK Center Resource Fair, Juneteenth 2025

Community Workshop, October 2025

Black Earth Day, April 2026

## Online

Project website

Blog posts, email newsletter

Discussion board & interactive map: <https://spokane5thavenue.com/>

*Spanning all engagement efforts, **co-creation, accessibility, and creativity** were key elements of our approach to best meet community members where they're at and collect a diversity of input.*

### Community Working Group:

5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Forward

Carl Maxey Center

Nuestras Raíces

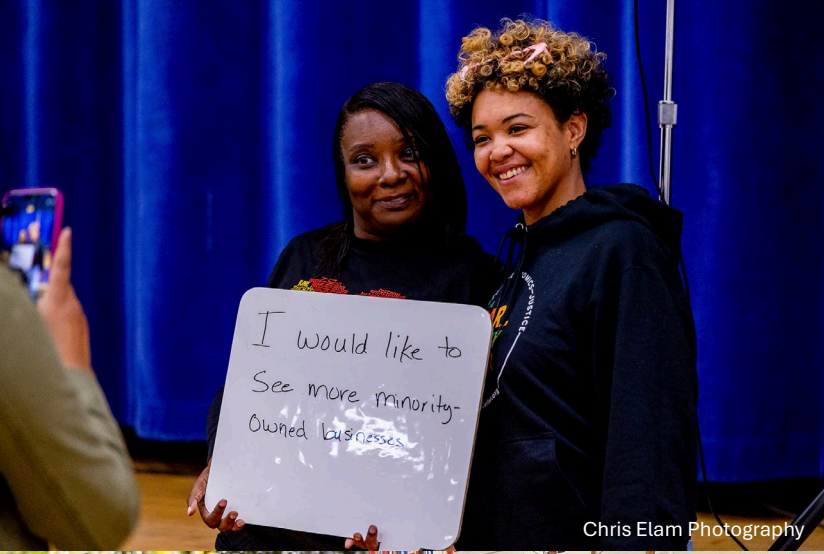
Take Up the Cause

East Central Neighborhood Council

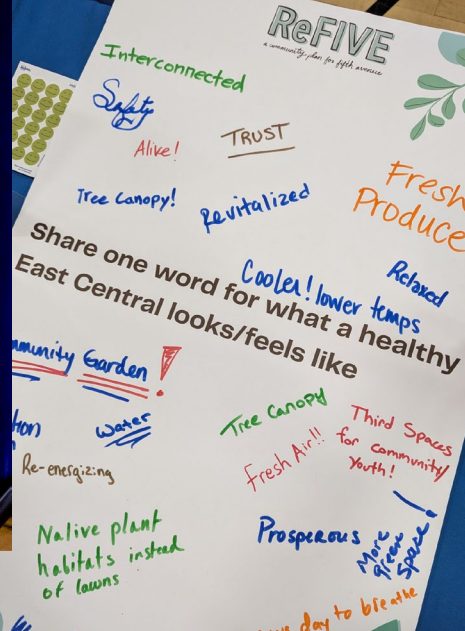
Spokane Public Schools

Youth Representative

*Engagement summary online at  
<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/fifth-avenue-plan/>*



Chris Elam Photography



Chris Elam Photography

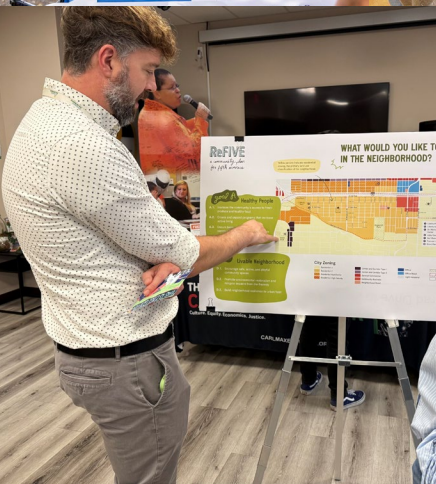


Chris Elam Photography

“ I think that that's the biggest piece that we're looking for, is the restoration of the community that was once thriving.”



Chris Elam Photography



ReFIVE Draft Plan Overview – TC Workshop: June 17, 2026

Chris Elam Photography



Chris Elam Photography

# THE BIGGEST OF YOUR BIG IDEAS!

MORE FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ↑



**Community ideas & input**

*defined the*

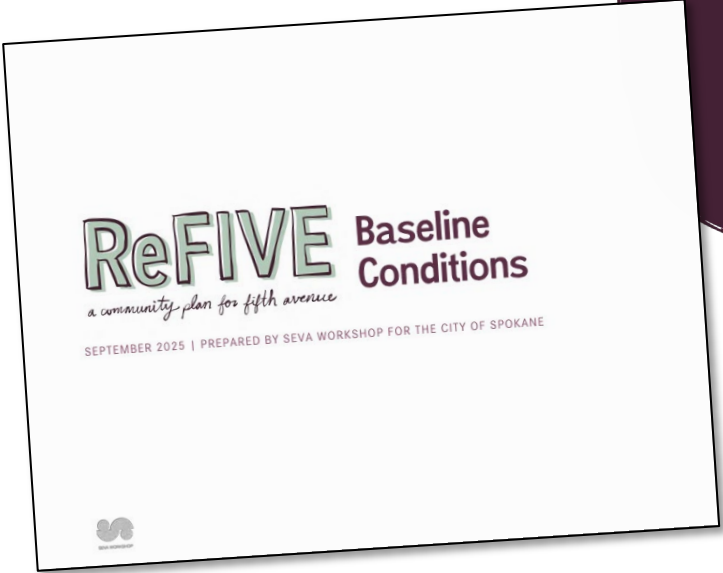
**Topics for Study:**

- Walkability
- Homeownership
- Community Identity
- Community Wealth Building
- Connectivity
- Restore the Land

*became the*

**Framework of the Plan**

- Goal A: Community Identity
- Goal B: Connected Neighborhood
- Goal C: Livable Neighborhood
- Goal D: Community Wealth Building
- Goal E: Home in 5th Avenue



# What is the ReFIVE Plan?

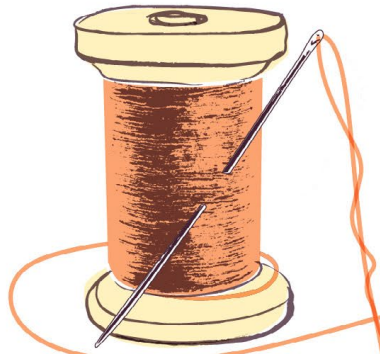
## Why now?



Late 1800s - 1920    1920s - 1950s    Late 1950s - 1960s    1970s - 1990s    1980s - 2010s    2010s    2019-2021    2020s    2024-2026

Early Development	Redlining & Disinvestment	Interstate 90 Construction	Emerging Legacies	Community Organizing	NSC Highway Construction	5th Avenue Initiative	Revitalization & Public Art	ReFIVE Community Planning
East Central, including 5th Avenue, emerged as one of Spokane's first suburbs with homes, shops, and light industry, with a strong Italian American immigrant community early on.	Federal housing policies redlined East Central, restricting investment and mortgage access for minority residents.	I-90 cut through East Central, displacing over a thousand families and businesses and dividing the neighborhood physically and socially.	Buoyed by the civil rights movement, local institutions like the MLK Center are founded and prominent leaders like Carl Maxey and James and Eleanor Chase do the trailblazing work that will establish their legacy.	Residents organized to preserve local heritage, strengthen neighborhood identity, and push for equitable development.	The US 395 North Spokane Corridor (NSC) construction resulted in close to 500 additional homes and businesses displaced for highway infrastructure expansion. A saving grace was the preservation and relocation of the historic Rose Apartments.	A community-driven process co-created with the City to develop a revitalization strategy emphasizing inclusion, mobility, and design.	Murals, small business grants, and public art celebrate the area's diversity.	[description forthcoming]





# COMMON THREADS

Three **VISION THEMES**, distilled from thoughtful community conversations, are **THREADED** throughout ReFIVE's ideas. Each of these themes have **TIE-INS** across the plan's five recommendations chapters, **INTERWEAVING** the community's values with the plan's goals and strategies

# VISION THEMES

VISION THEMES

## Respect

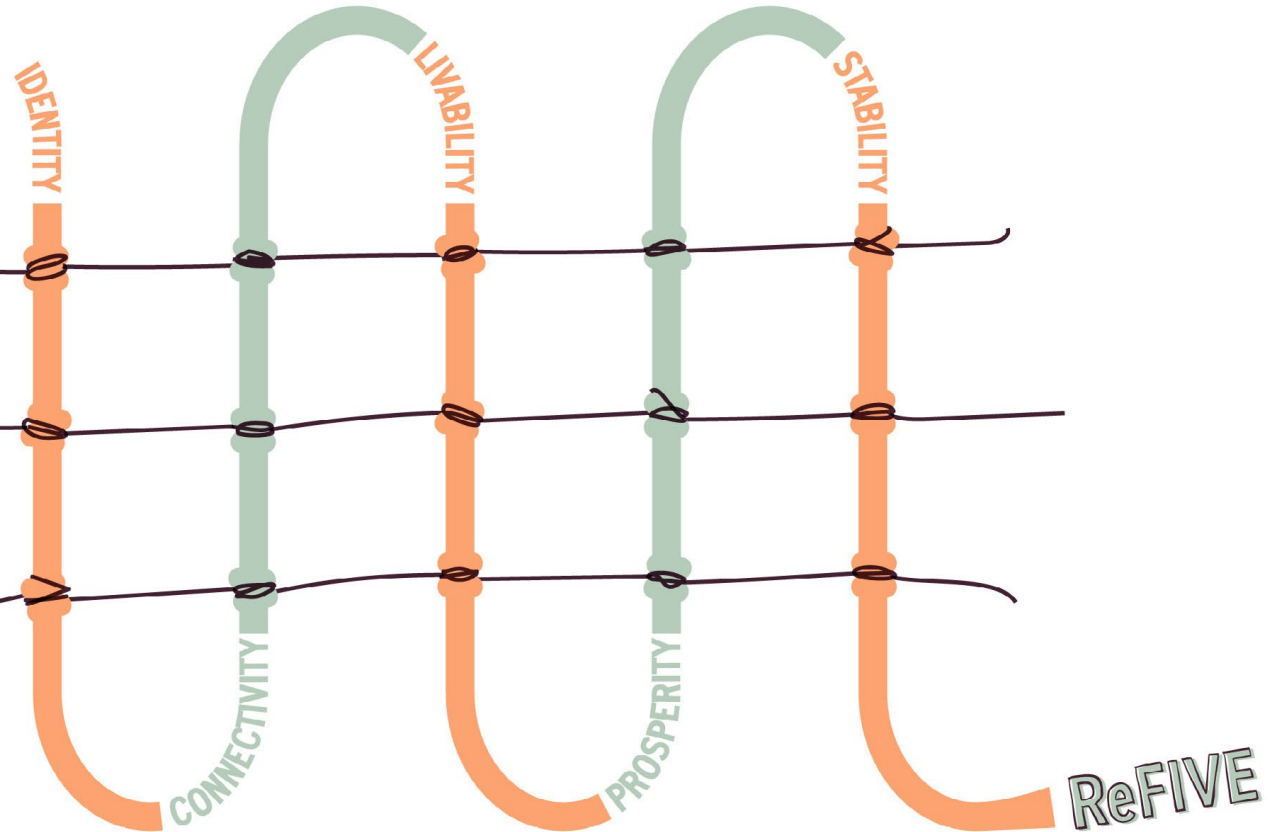
Rebalance **EQUITY** issues through economic opportunity, affordability, and environmental justice.

## Resilience

Prioritize **SUSTAINABILITY** and climate adaptation in infrastructure, policy, and programming decisions.

## Resourcefulness

Foster **PARTNERSHIPS** between the City and social commons; strengthen and leverage nonprofit and community infrastructure.



# ReFIVE Draft Plan Goals



# Goals and Strategies At a Glance

GOAL	STRATEGIES
<p><b>IDENTITY</b></p> <p>Cement and honor the legacy of the neighborhood’s history, fill the environment with art and color, and celebrate today’s community</p>	<p><b>1.1:</b> Celebrate 5th Avenue’s rich history as the heart of Spokane’s Black community</p> <p><b>1.2:</b> Beautify 5th Avenue</p> <p><b>1.3:</b> Organize shared experiences that reflect today’s diversity</p>
<p><b>CONNECTIVITY</b></p> <p>Improve the experience of the neighborhood for those who are walking, biking, rolling, or accessing transit.</p>	<p><b>2.1:</b> Make the neighborhood more accessible</p> <p><b>2.2:</b> Make streets and sidewalks safer and more comfortable</p> <p><b>2.3:</b> Support neighborhood and district connectivity</p> <p><b>2.4:</b> Enhance access to transit</p>
<p><b>LIVABILITY</b></p> <p>Make the 5th Avenue neighborhood a welcoming and comfortable space for people of all ages and abilities.</p>	<p><b>3.1:</b> Encourage safe, active, and playful community spaces</p> <p><b>3.2:</b> Create and expand programs that increase active living</p> <p><b>3.3:</b> Increase the community’s access to healthy food and water</p> <p><b>3.4:</b> Build neighborhood resilience to urban heat</p> <p><b>3.5:</b> Mitigate heat, extreme cold, and other climate change impacts</p>


# Goals and Strategies At a Glance

GOAL	STRATEGIES
<p><b>PROSPERITY</b></p> <p>Foster more resilient, equitable, and sustainable economies by recognizing and nurturing local community assets such as small businesses, non-profits, and cultural organizations.</p>	<p><b>4.1:</b> Nurture and expand commercial activity and economic development along 5th Avenue</p> <p><b>4.2:</b> Support new development that advances community goals</p> <p><b>4.3:</b> Encourage partnerships to connect residents to good jobs and supportive services</p> <p><b>4.4:</b> Offer technical assistance and funding support to small businesses and entrepreneurs</p>
<p><b>STABILITY</b></p> <p>Ensure the future of 5th Avenue is affordable, racially diverse, and inclusive for a wide range of household types.</p>	<p><b>5.1:</b> Increase housing options and affordability levels</p> <p><b>5.2:</b> Promote homeownership, especially for first-time buyers</p> <p><b>5.3:</b> Sustain homeownership for community members</p> <p><b>5.4:</b> Use creative tools and strategies to acquire sites for affordable housing</p>

# Goal: Connectivity

**A well-connected neighborhood promotes community health, strengthens social connectivity, benefits local businesses, and even improves air quality.**

- Improve the experience of getting around the neighborhood with improved safety and ease of access for active transportation modes
- Variety of destinations
- Compact blocks, lighting, well maintained and connected sidewalks
- Landscaped buffers alongside walking areas to provide shade and separation from the street
- Places for occasional rest such as benches and local destinations



Mixed use  
housing - street  
level businesses,  
grocery & restaurants  
all walkable

# Implementation Examples

## 2.1d Improve wayfinding signage to support easy navigation

- Pilot a temporary wayfinding installation along 5th Avenue using sidewalk paint, decals, or corrugated plastic signs to connect people to important destinations.

## 2.2b Implement safety projects and programs near neighborhood schools

- Install a demonstration project at Frances Scott Elementary School near 5th Avenue and Rebecca Street in conjunction with Walk to School Day to provide more space for kids walking, biking, and rolling to school.
- Explore improvements to Altamont Street and parallel routes to support enhanced safety for families and students getting to from the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue area to Grant Elementary School and Franklin Elementary School.

## Strategy 2.4: Enhance access to transit

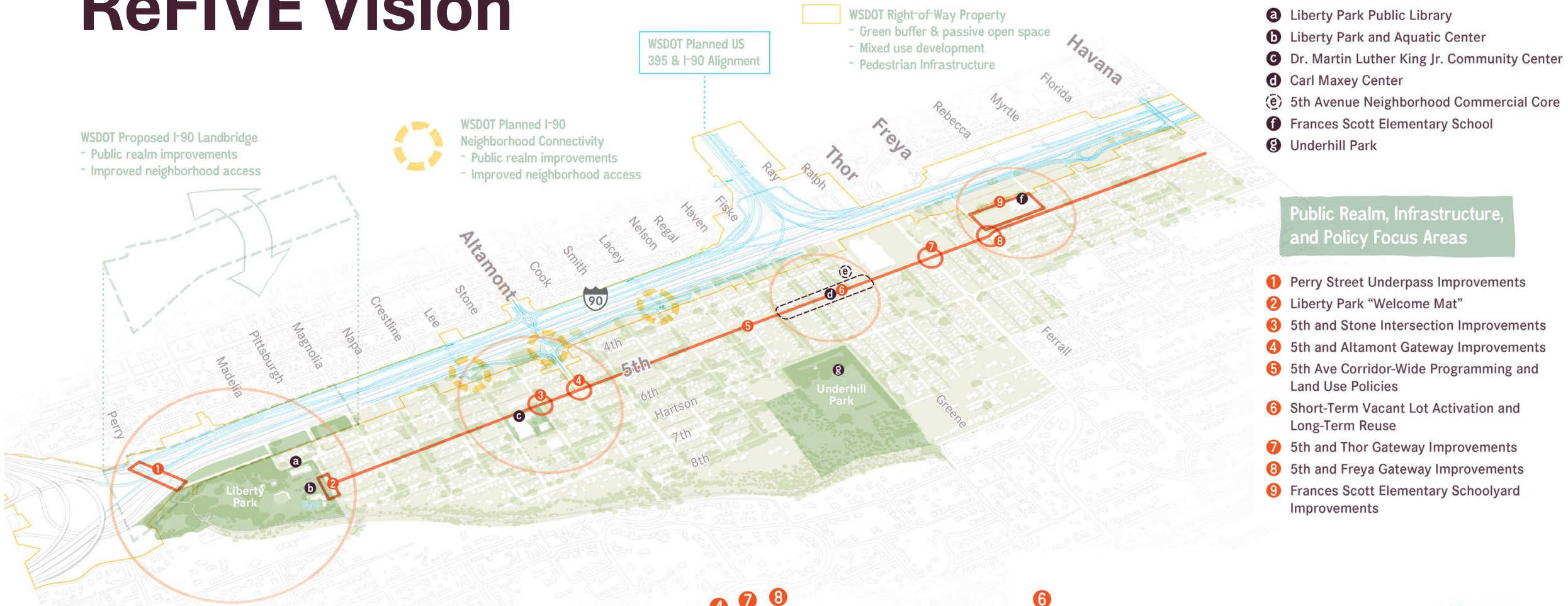
- Continue to seek support and funding for the 2023 Liberty to Edgecliff Improvements for Accessibility (LEIA) Program to improve multimodal transportation along transit Route 94 and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

# Connectivity Improvements

Desired improvements to multimodal transportation and safety to support neighborhood connectivity.



# ReFIVE Vision



- a** Liberty Park Public Library
- b** Liberty Park and Aquatic Center
- c** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center
- d** Carl Maxey Center
- e** 5th Avenue Neighborhood Commercial Core
- f** Frances Scott Elementary School
- g** Underhill Park

## Public Realm, Infrastructure, and Policy Focus Areas

- 1** Perry Street Underpass Improvements
- 2** Liberty Park "Welcome Mat"
- 3** 5th and Stone Intersection Improvements
- 4** 5th and Altamont Gateway Improvements
- 5** 5th Ave Corridor-Wide Programming and Land Use Policies
- 6** Short-Term Vacant Lot Activation and Long-Term Reuse
- 7** 5th and Thor Gateway Improvements
- 8** 5th and Freya Gateway Improvements
- 9** Frances Scott Elementary Schoolyard Improvements



# Concept: Perry Street Underpass Mural



# Concept: Liberty Park Welcome Mat

Public realm improvements at Liberty Park to better connect neighbors and visitors to the civic spaces and amenities of the library, park, and aquatic center, and create a more welcoming entrance and pedestrian environment for walking, biking, rolling, and transit.



# Concept: Intersection Improvements

Expanded traffic calming concepts at intersections:

- ▶ Improves neighborhood safety and livability
- ▶ Advances equity by improving access to transportation for all
- ▶ Enhances sustainability by reducing vehicle miles traveled
- ▶ Improves health by upgrading facilities for people walking, rolling, and biking



# Early Wins/Day One Projects

The Early Wins listed below have been identified by the Working Group as steps that can be taken immediately due to opportunities such as available funding or existing relationships.

Actions	Lead & Partners
1. Pursue the designation of a <b>cultural district</b> for the neighborhood	Fifth Avenue Forward
2. Create a partnership agreement between the Spokane Public Schools, City of Spokane Parks Department and the Trust for Public Lands and seek funding for a pilot project on a <b>greening schoolyard</b> program for Frances Scott Elementary School	Spokane Public Schools, City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department, and Trust for Public Lands
3. Improvements to <b>Rebecca St. and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave/5<sup>th</sup> Ave</b> to support neighborhood connectivity by Frances Scott Elementary School.	City of Spokane, Spokane Public Schools
4. Intersection improvements at <b>5<sup>th</sup> Ave and Altamont St and traffic calming at 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and Stone St</b> near the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center.	City of Spokane, MLK Jr. Family Outreach Center
5. Intersection improvements at <b>5<sup>th</sup> Ave and Green St</b> . Coordination with STA on bus stop improvements would also benefit transit riders.	City of Spokane, STA
6. Extending the <b>infrastructure improvements</b> from the commercial businesses along 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave to include in front of Carl Maxey Center.	City of Spokane, Carl Maxey Center
7. Completing sidewalk improvement on <b>5<sup>th</sup> Ave between Fiske St and Haven St</b> .	City of Spokane
8. Improvement projects around <b>Thor St/Freya St couplet between 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and Hartson St</b> to support connectivity across Thor St/Freya St	City of Spokane

# Draft Plan Engagement

May 19:  
East Central NC

May 27:  
PC Workshop

May – July: Draft Plan Survey

May – July: Online Discussion Wall & Interactive Map

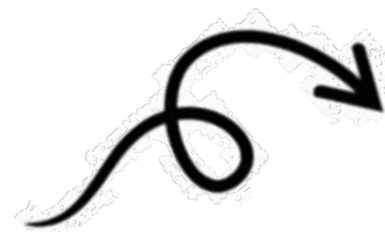
June – July: Community Tabling

June 11: Draft Plan  
Virtual Workshop

June 19-20: Juneteenth  
Community Events

June/July TBD: Cultural  
Small Group Discussions

Visit online for complete schedule:  
[https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/  
fifth-avenue-plan/](https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/fifth-avenue-plan/)



Survey available in  
English, Spanish,  
Marshallese, and Russian

SEVA  
  
WORK  
SHOP