

Special Meeting Notice and Agenda of the Spokane City Council

Meeting of Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

City Council Chambers

A quorum of Spokane City Council will be present for a Study Session on the Comprehensive Plan Update (PlanSpokane 2046), starting at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2026 in City Council Chambers, Lower Level, City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA 99201.

The meeting will be conducted in a study session format and will be open to the public in person only. No legislative action will be taken.

Agenda:

1. **PlanSpokane 2046 Status Update – Timeline Review, Chapter Updates, Future Land Use Plan Map – Spencer Gardner, KayCee Downey, Kevin Freibott, 45 minutes**
2. **BuildSpokane – Project Update – Tim Thompson, KayCee Downey, 30 minutes**



Betsy Wilkerson
Council President

Giacobbe R Byrd
Spokane City Clerk

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION: The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs and services for persons with disabilities. The Council Chambers in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is wheelchair accessible and also is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) through the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Human Resources at 509.625.6373, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA, 99201; or ddecorde@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Human Resources through the Washington Relay Service at 7 1 1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.

City of Spokane
City Council Study Session
July 23, 2026



Subject

This study session will update City Council on PlanSpokane 2046, the state mandated update to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Work on this project began in 2024, and completion is expected Nov/Dec of 2026, and is mandated to be completed by December 31, 2026.

This effort has been informed by extensive public participation, as outlined in the Preferred Alternative Staff Report dated April 14, 2026, and on the project website ([PlanSpokane.org](https://www.planspokane.org)). Additionally, several subarea planning efforts currently underway or recently concluded have been incorporated. These efforts include the Hillyard Plan, Division TOD Planning, and East Central/5th Avenue planning.

Environmental Review of the draft plan is required and is currently underway. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was issued on December 18, 2025; public comment concluded on March 5, 2026. All comments received during the public comment period will be addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which is expected to be issued in late September. When the FEIS and all the draft chapters are ready for Plan Commission Hearing, a hearing date will be set. This is anticipated in early October at a special meeting of the Plan Commission. The date will be publicized through the PlanSpokane Newsletter, as well as Citywide Newsletters.

City Council took action on the Preferred Alternative Growth Map on May 18, 2026 ([RES 2026-0035](#)). Using the direction from the Preferred Alternative Growth Map, staff are developing a Future Land Use Map (FLUM), which will replace the current "Land Use Plan Map LU1" in Shaping Spokane, the City's current Comprehensive Plan. A draft of the FLUM is expected in early August, along with an interactive mapping tool for community members to be able to review and provide feedback.

The most recent information on the periodic update to the Comprehensive Plan is available at [PlanSpokane](https://www.planspokane.org). This includes information on climate planning integration and a summary of community engagement in 2025.

First Full Week of August 2026:

- Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Draft – Interactive map with ability to take public comments
- Updated Chapters – Incorporating edits from comments, incorporating editorial consistency changes, adding maps to chapters
- Formal public comment period, seeking community feedback on the FLUM and updated draft Chapters, will begin the first week of August through the first full week

of September. Following this period of community feedback, Plan Commission will set a hearing date, anticipated to be in October 2026, when the hearing date is set, a “Plan Commission Hearing Draft” will be issued along with the Notice of Public Hearing.

- Newsletter and media push 1st full week of August

Background

The City of Spokane is commencing a periodic update to the City’s Comprehensive Plan as required by the Growth Management Act (GMA). A “periodic update” is the state’s term for a full review of a Comprehensive Plan to make sure it’s in conformance with any legislative changes to state law. The last periodic update was completed in 2017. Since the last periodic update, state law has added additional considerations especially around Climate Planning and Planning for Housing for all income levels that need to be added to the City’s plan.

Due in 2026, the periodic update will identify policies and future regulations to guide the next 20 years of our city, a planning horizon of 2026-2046. The next periodic update will occur in 2036, with a planning horizon of 2036-2056. [The current Comprehensive Plan can be found here.](#)

City of Spokane
City Council Study Session
July 24, 2026



Subject

This study session will update City Council on BUILDSpokane, the code modernization project to improve usability and support desired development and redevelopment. The BUILDSpokane timeline is divided into three modules. Module 1 will establish the procedural framework for future development review. The draft is expected to address application types, decision-makers, notice and public involvement, review timelines, approval criteria, appeals, vesting, expiration of approvals, and related administrative procedures. Modules 2 and 3 will go over zoning districts, uses, and development standards.

Early community engagement has occurred through targeted stakeholder meetings with regular users of the Spokane Municipal Code, allowing staff and the consulting team to better understand the current code and potential areas for improvement. Public engagement opportunities are planned for later this summer and early fall to learn from the general community what they want to see in the development code and their vision for the built environment.

Background

The City of Spokane is undertaking a comprehensive update of Title 17 of the Spokane Municipal Code (i.e. the Spokane Development Code or "SDC"), which governs zoning, land use, and development review processes. The code modernization project, named BUILDSpokane, will focus on improving the SDC's useability, aligning regulations with adopted plans and policies, and implementing regulatory best practices.

Recent legislation, state mandates, and regional planning initiatives – along with years of piecemeal adjustments to the existing Title 17 - necessitate a holistic examination of the SDC. BUILDSpokane represents the first comprehensive update to the regulations in many years and is intended to:

- Modernize the City's regulatory framework;
- Align the development regulations with current policy objectives outlined in the Comprehensive Plan;
- Reduce or eliminate barriers to development and redevelopment;
- Promote affordability, equity, and sustainability; and

- Improve transparency and efficiency in development reviews.

The project is also intended to establish clear and predictable development review procedures, clarify the roles of participants in the review process, and improve coordination among reviewing departments.

Questions and comments about the BUILDSpokane code modernization project can be sent to DevelopmentCode@spokanecity.org.

More information, including the [Spokane Development Code Assessment](#), can be found at the project webpage: my.spokanecity.org/projects/buildspokane-code-modernization-project/



Learn More About the City of Spokane's Code Modernization Project

my.spokanecity.org/projects/buildspokane-code-modernization-project/

