

CITY OF SPOKANE



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on September 15, 1914, railroad executives from Spokane and around the United States gathered on a newly constructed railroad trestle towering high above the Spokane River and over the top of the Monroe Street Bridge to celebrate the completion of a critical railroad link by pounding a golden spike into the final railroad tie; and

WHEREAS, the golden spike celebrated the completion of the Ayer-Cutoff, which was a 105-mile section of railroad from Spokane to the southwest which shortened travel to the west coast by multiple hours and connected Spokane with a vast system of railroad which had been previously inaccessible to Spokanites. It was the final link in Spokane's railroad network necessary to guarantee its place amongst the most critical railroad hubs in the American West; and

WHEREAS, on that same day, Spokane's Union Station train depot opened providing passenger services. Union Station was located at the corner of Spokane Falls Boulevard and Stevens Street near the location of the Big Red Wagon. The depot and the train trestle were demolished in order to make way for Expo '74; and

WHEREAS, Robert E. Strahorn, a Spokanite and Browne's Addition resident, championed railroad development and specifically the Ayer-Cutoff. He secured massive investment in Spokane and helped to confirm its status as a railroad hub; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department, the Spokane Historic Preservation Office, and the Jonas Babcock Chapter of the D.A.R. organized the placement of a memorial plaque and have gathered us here today 111 years later to recognize the historic achievement and its impact on Spokane

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the people of Spokane, do hereby proclaim September 15, 2025 as

SPOKANE GOLDEN SPIKE DAY

as an opportunity to celebrate Spokane's railroad and transportation history as well as to highlight the value of rail infrastructure today and into the future.

I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of Spokane,
do hereunto set my hand and
cause the seal of the City of Spokane
to be affixed this
15th day of September 2025.

Lisa Brown

Lisa Brown
Mayor

