



Neighborhood Training Session: Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Department of Planning Services and the Office of Neighborhood Services

February 23, 2022

Tips for Today's Session

- Please keep your microphone muted whenever you aren't speaking.
- This training will be recorded for later use.
- Please submit questions during the chat or use the “raise hand” button.
- Please address your chat questions or comments to the presenter, not the other attendees.
- On the telephone? Use *3 to mute or unmute.





Our Plan For Today

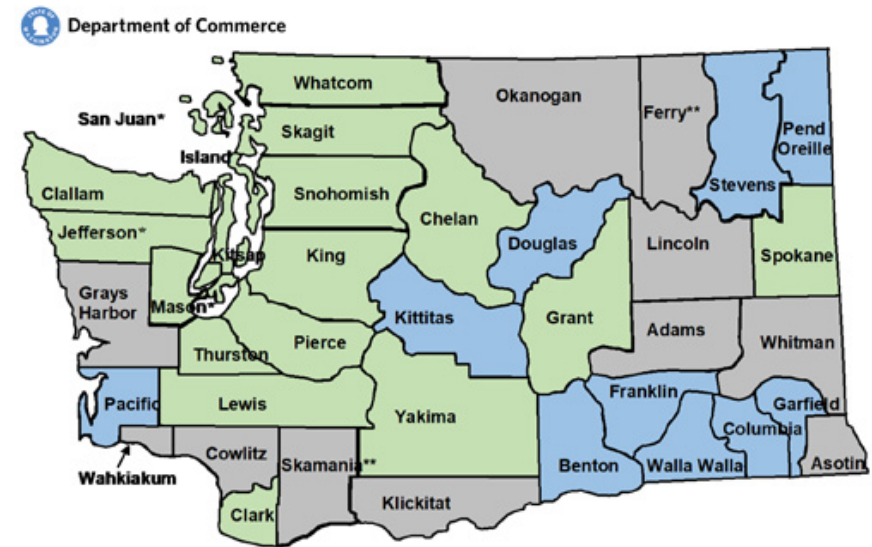
1. What is the Growth Management Act?
2. What is a Comprehensive Plan?
3. What is the process to change the Comprehensive Plan?
4. How can you get involved?

Please note: Today's training is not about this year's docket of proposed amendments. Instead, we're focusing on the program in general. For questions and comments on this year's docket, please contact Kara Frashfski at kmoweryfrashfski@spokanecity.org.

THE PRESENTER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS YEAR'S PROPOSALS.

1. What is the Growth Management Act?

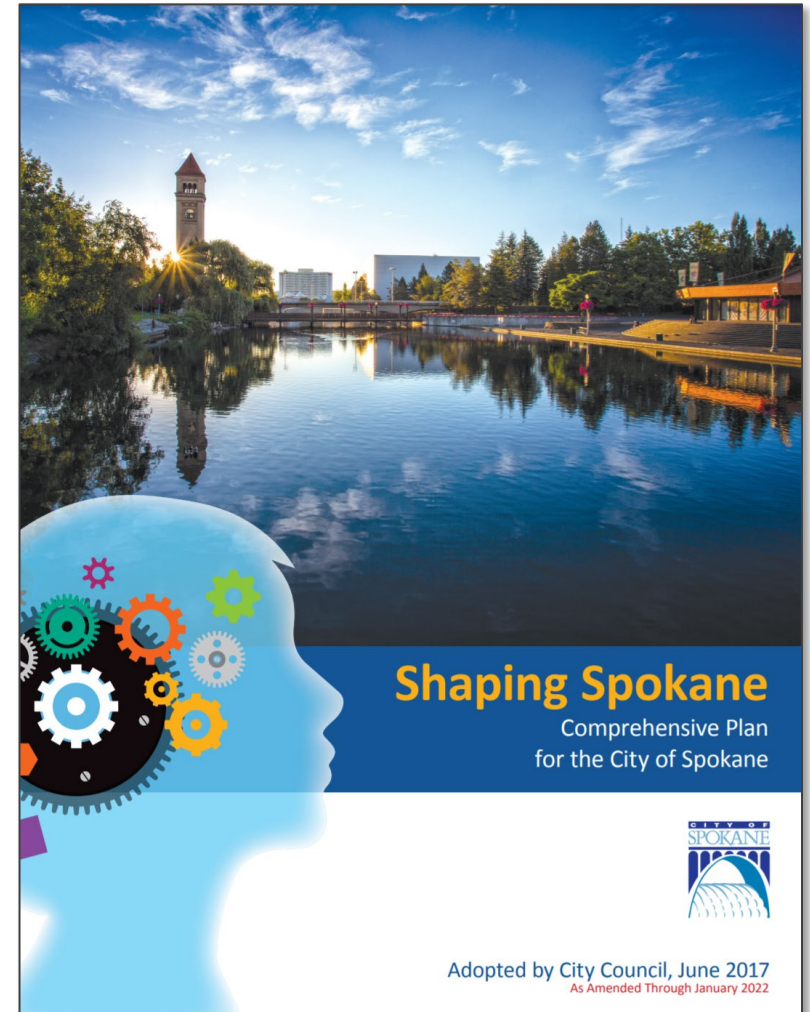
1. Guides growth planning, development, and various permitting actions throughout Washington State.
2. Mandates comprehensive planning contents, process, and timelines.
3. Ensures coordination and cooperation between agencies, jurisdictions, and the public.



18 Counties Required to Plan Fully	10 Counties "Opted-In" To Plan Fully	11 Counties Subject to Critical Areas and Natural Resource Lands Requirements Only
* Did not exercise ability to Opt-Out of full GMA Planning		** Exercised ability to Opt-Out of full GMA Planning

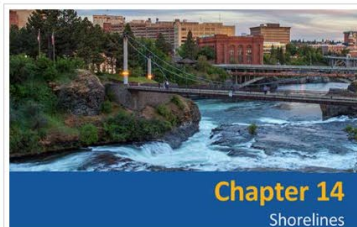
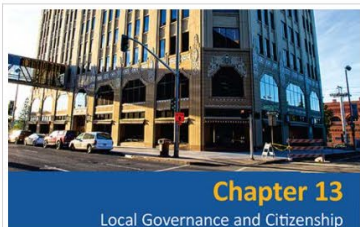
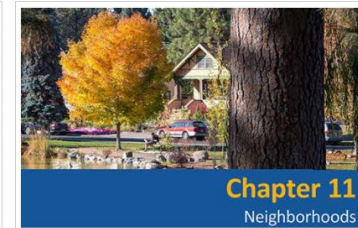
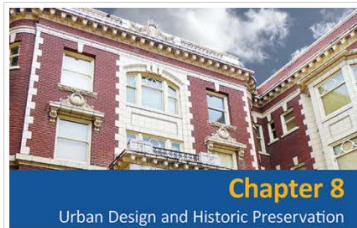
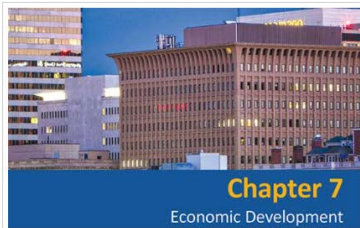
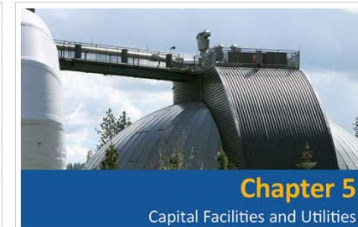
2. What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- The “great big plan of everything.”
- General in nature.
- Long-range in focus (20 years).



2. What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- Various chapters or “elements.”
- Topics are distinct but inter-related.



2. What is a Comprehensive Plan?

POLICY

LU 1 CITYWIDE LAND USE

Goal: Offer a harmonious blend of opportunities for living, working, recreation, education, shopping, and cultural activities by protecting natural amenities, providing coordinated, efficient, and cost effective public facilities and utility services, carefully managing both residential and non-residential development and design, and proactively reinforcing downtown Spokane's role as a vibrant urban center.

Policies

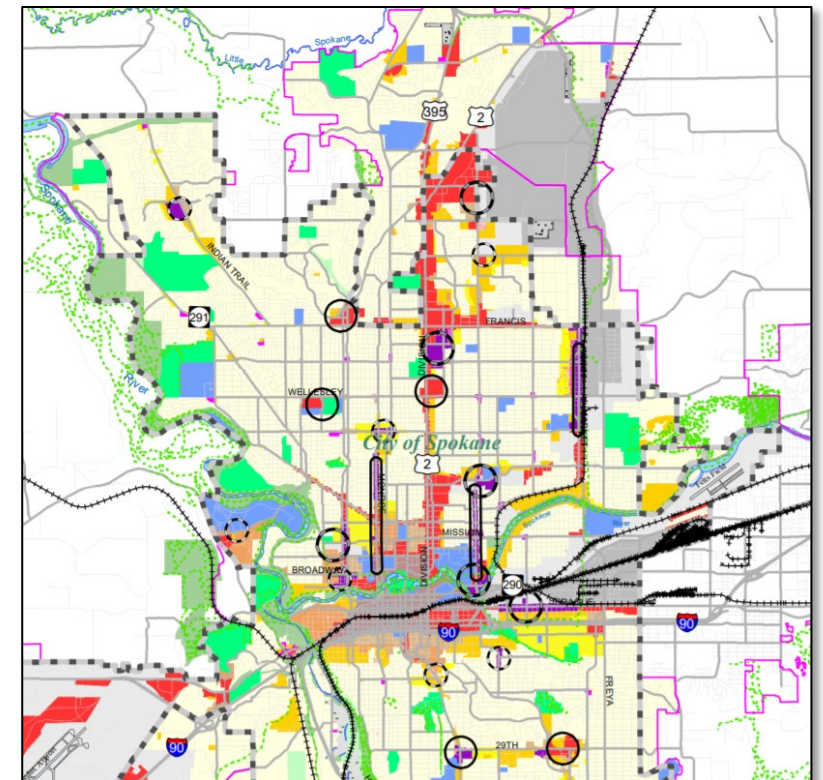
LU 1.1 Neighborhoods

Utilize the neighborhood concept as a unit of design for planning housing, transportation, services, and amenities.



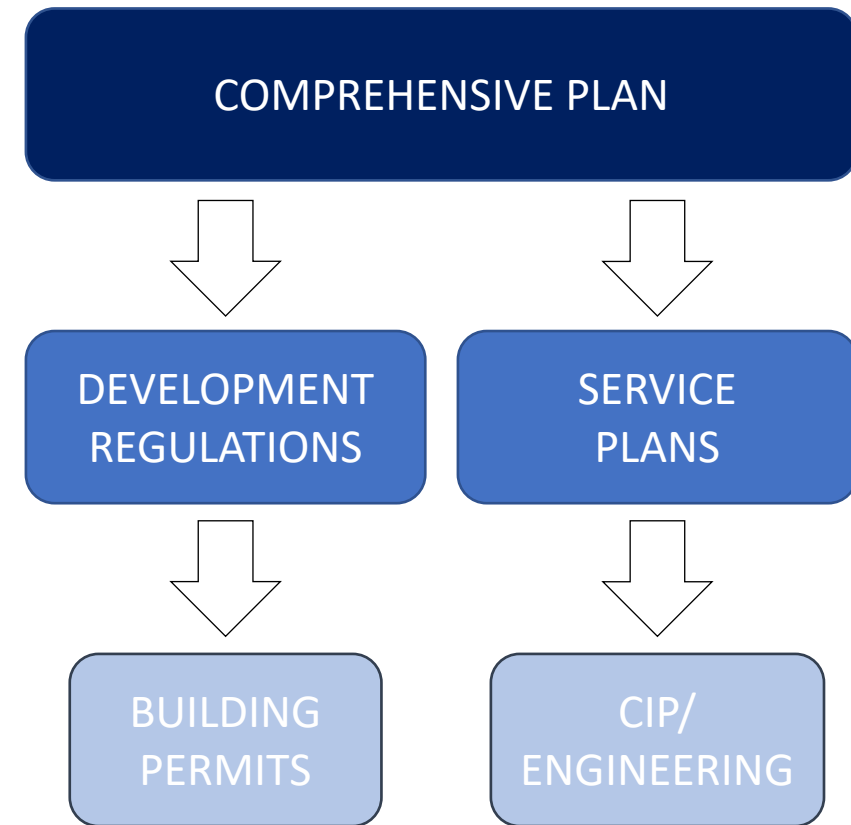
Discussion: Neighborhoods generally should have identifiable physical boundaries, such as principal arterial streets or other major natural or built features. Ideally, they should have a

MAPS



2. What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- Comprehensive plan policy leads directly to adopted standards and guidelines (Spokane Municipal Code).
- Affects operation of all City functions.
- Used to determine service capacity and the need for more.



3. What is the process to change the Comp Plan?

Comp Plan Periodic Update

- Major study and update of the entire document.
- Every eight years.*
- City designs update scope/process each time.
- Next planned update: 2026

-OR-

Comp Plan Amendment Program

- Annual applications from both the public and the City itself.
- Minor amendments and changes to maps, policies, or both.
- Set process for intake and review.
- All applications reviewed concurrently only once a year.



3. What is the process to change the Comp Plan?

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT PROGRAM

Applications from the Public

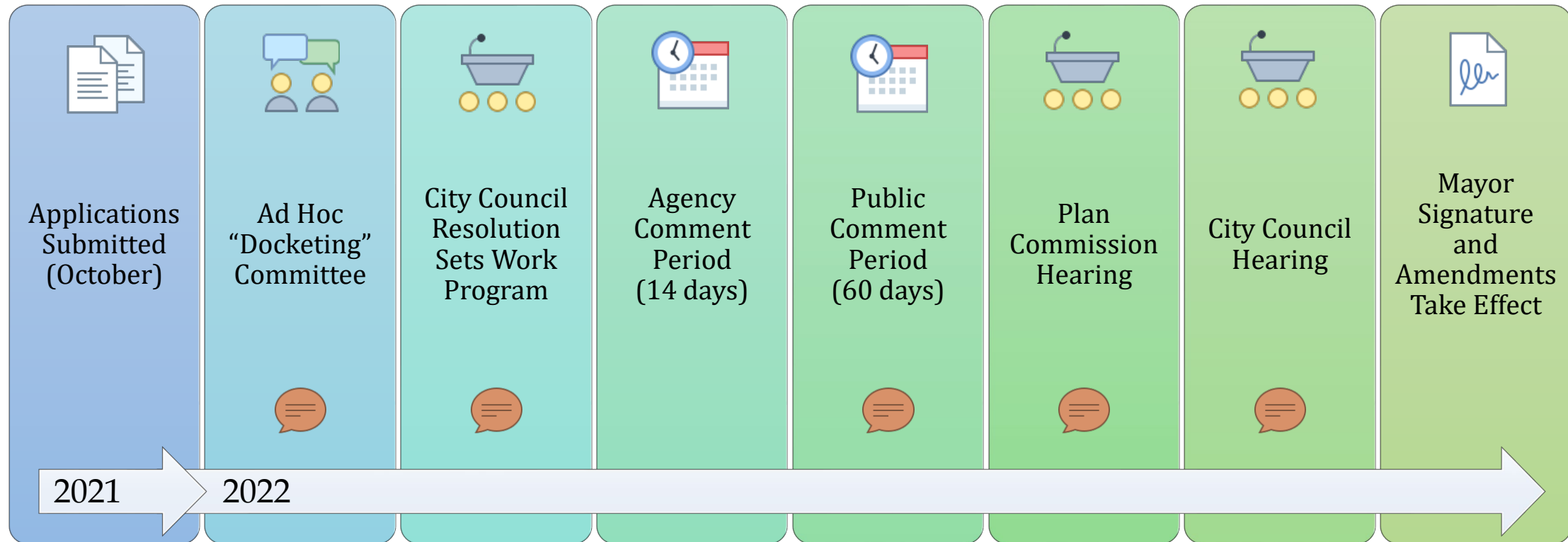
- Applications taken in September/October.
- Application materials.
- Payment of fees.

Proposal from the City

- Various sources and departments.
- Documents due in the beginning of the year.
- No fees or direct costs.



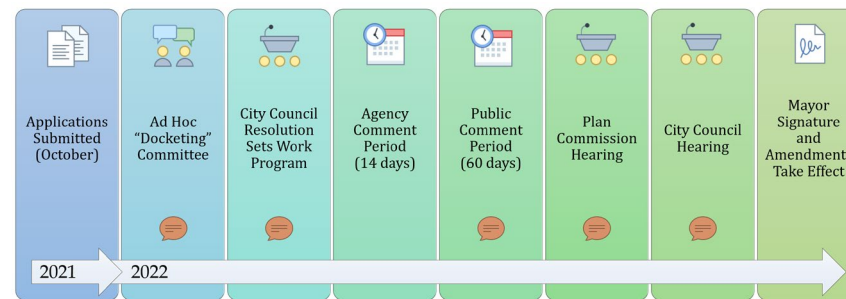
3. What is the process to change the Comp Plan?



 = Opportunity for Public Comment (Written/Oral)

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Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) 17G.020



 = Opportunity for Public Comment (Written/Oral)

3. What is the process to change the Comp Plan?

Threshold “Docketing” Criteria (SMC 17G.020.026)

- A. Appropriately a CPA?
- B. Existing work program item?
- C. Existing resources/time?
- D. If expanded--nearby and similarly situated?
- E. Consistent with current plan?
- F. Not the same as last year's proposal?
- G. Directed by state law or court decision?



3. What is the process to change the Comp Plan?

Final Review Criteria (SMC 17G.020.030)

- A. Consistent with state/federal law?
- B. Consistent with GMA?
- C. If any financial ramifications, are they in the CIP/Budget?
- D. If lack of funding would require scaling back services, was the public informed/consulted?
- E. Internally consistent with Comp Plan and other plans?
- F. Consistent with regional plans?
- G. Cumulative impacts considered?
- H. Consistent with State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)?
- I. Adequate public facilities available?
- J. UGA expansion, only by Council or Mayor.
- K. Need adequately demonstrated?



3. What is the process to change the Comp Plan?

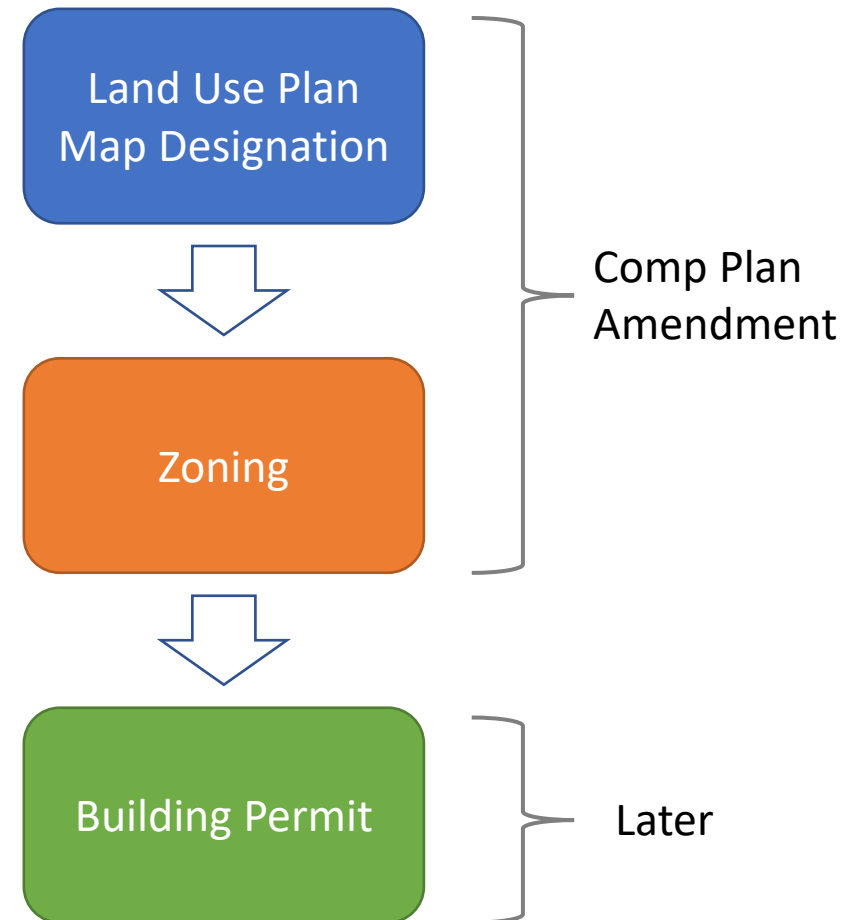
A Note on Demonstrated Need (SMC 17G.020.030.K)

- Policy amendments: provide correction or additional guidance to better achieve community vision.
- Map amendments: proposal conforms to policy, site is suitable, and better implements the plan than the existing map.
- Land Use/Zoning: should amend both the Land Use Plan Map *and* the Zoning map.



3. What is the process to change the Comp Plan?

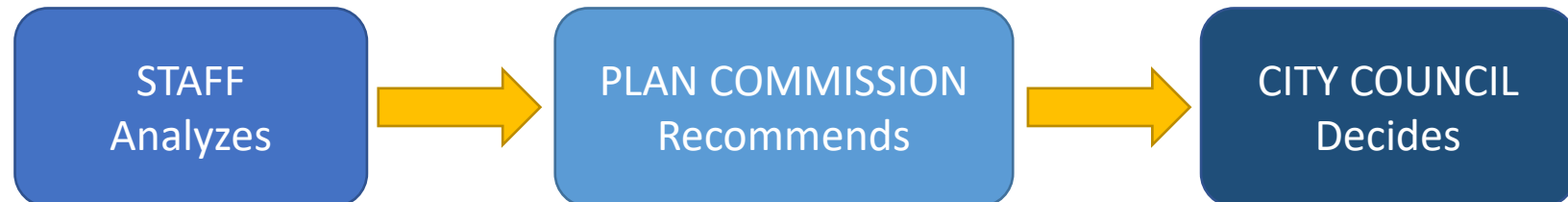
A note on our most common amendments . . . Land Use Plan Map & Zoning



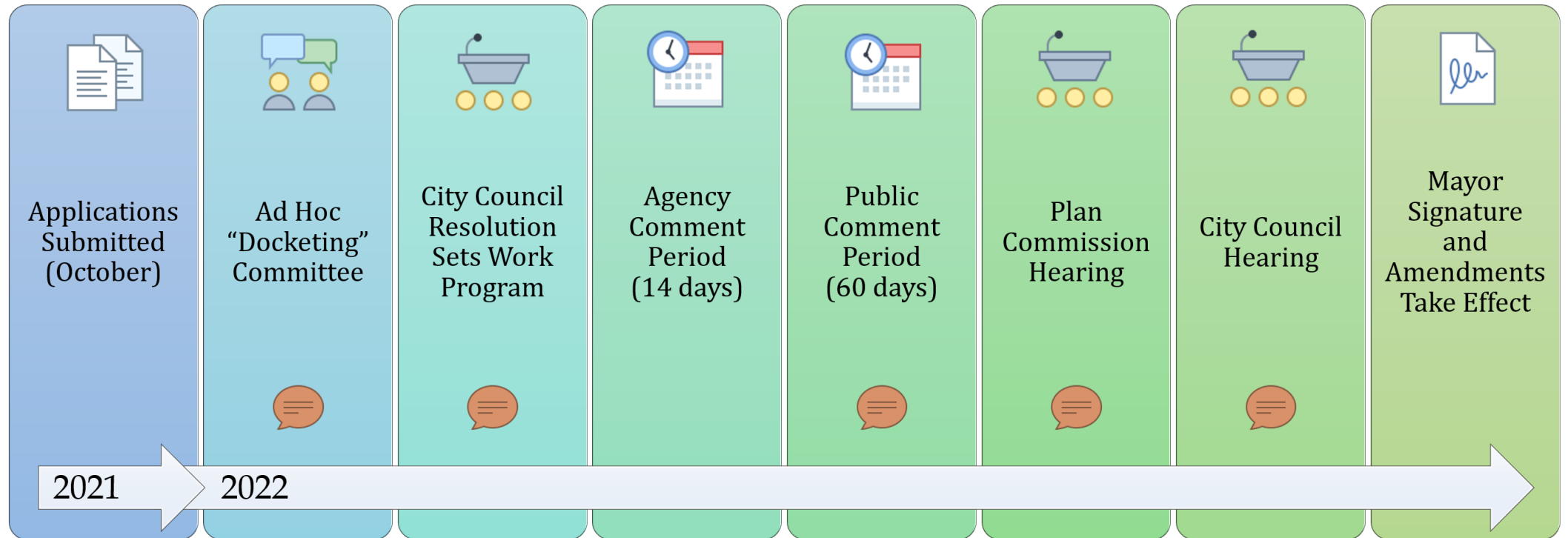
3. What is the process to change the Comp Plan?

Some things to know . . .

- Comprehensive Planning is a “legislative action.”
 - Wider latitude for decisionmakers.
 - More opportunity to comment/interact with public and applicants.
- Changes to policy can have effects citywide.
- Changes to maps are typically in certain locations.



4. How can you get involved?

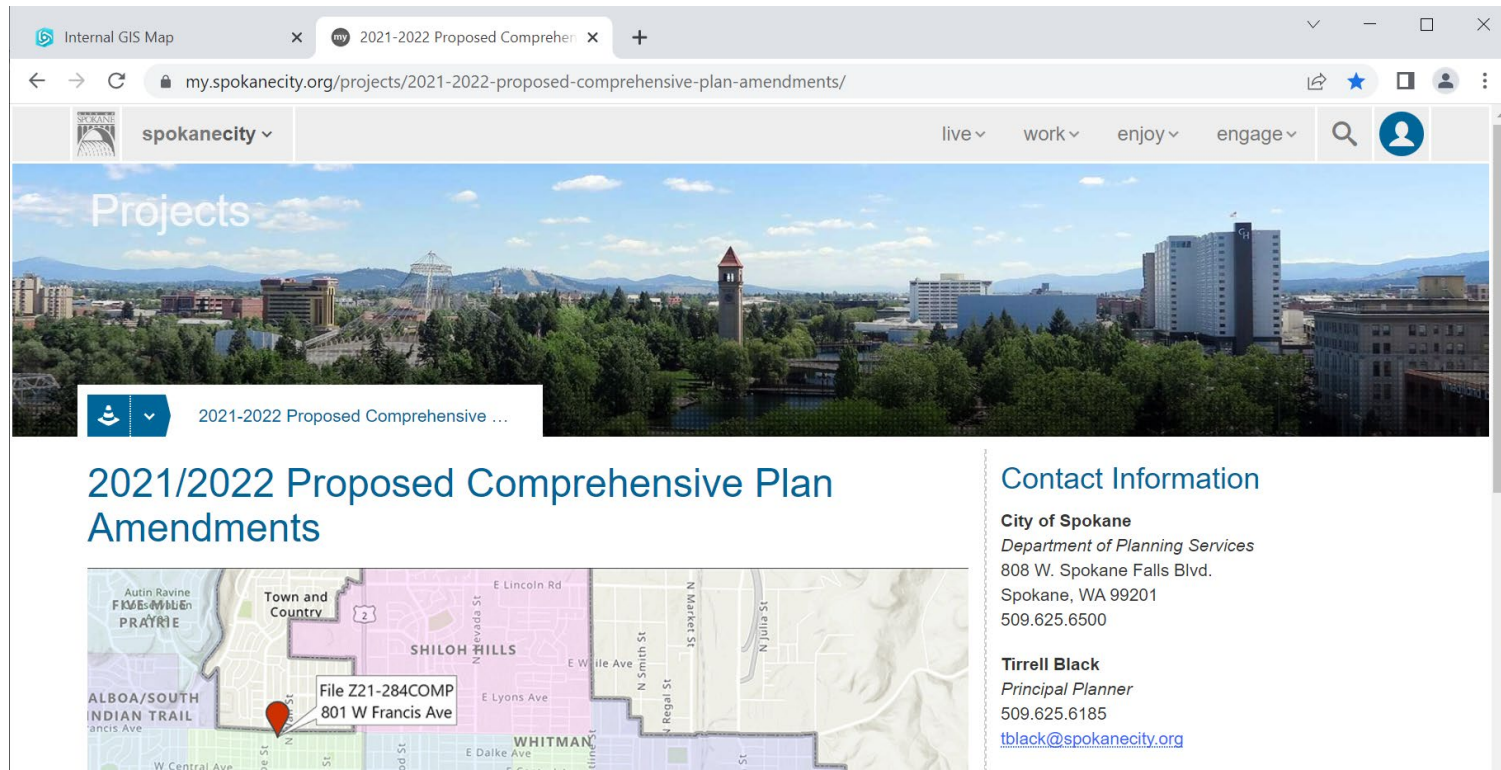


 = Opportunity for Public Comment (Written/Oral)

4. How can you get involved?

All relevant information is posted to the project website throughout the year:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/2021-2022-proposed-comprehensive-plan-amendments/>



4. How can you get involved?

- Become an “interested party” by contacting planning staff (kmoweryfrashefski@spokanecity.org).
- Written comments become part of the record, traveling with the application through the process.
- Verbal comments can be made at the Plan Commission and City Council hearings.
- Staff can answer questions, but verbal comments to staff aren’t recorded. In other words . . . write your comments down!
- Read the Staff Report and attend meetings if you can.
- Plan Commission Workshops (in summer) are your best source for detailed information before the staff report is issued.



4. How can you get involved?

Giving effective comments . . .

- **Lean on facts, not opinions.**
- SEPA checklists can help you understand traffic and other impacts.
- Read the Comprehensive Plan for inspiration.
- Read your neighborhood plan, if one has been adopted.
- Ask questions of staff before the meeting to understand what is proposed.



4. How can you get involved?

Bad Comment:

“We don’t want apartments in our neighborhood.”

Good Comment:

“This area has historically been developed with single-family houses. Allowing apartments would change the character of the neighborhood, contrary to policy LU ____.”



4. How can you get involved?

Bad Comment:

“This change will affect my property value.”

Good Comment:

“Study _____ published by _____ shows that changes like this can lower property values in the neighborhood.”

Hint: submit a copy or link to the study also!



4. How can you get involved?

Bad Comment:

“We don’t want any development in our neighborhood!”

Hint: read up on NIMBY.

Good Comment:

“Our neighborhood cannot accommodate more development until the City completes improvements in the Neighborhood Plan, etc.”



Review

- The Comp Plan is the overall planning guidance for the City.
- The Comp Plan can be changed two ways.
- You have multiple opportunities to engage.
- Learn all you can. Comment based on fact, not opinion.

Questions on today's training:

Kevin Freibott, kfreibott@spokanecity.org

Questions on this year's applications:

Kara Frashfski, kmoweryfrashfski@spokanecity.org

