

Chapter and Policy Update

The City has completed the first round of review and edits to several Comprehensive Plan chapters. The following document provides the updated goals and policies meant to guide growth and development in the City of Spokane through the lens of the **Economic Prosperity** element.

As part of the [PlanSpokane 2046 Periodic Update](#), drafts of the non-technical chapters of the Comprehensive Plan are now available for public review and comment. **Please send all comments and recommendations to PlanSpokane@spokanecity.org.** We encourage the public to include the Chapter name and Goal/Policy number(s) as applicable for ease of comment consideration.

Each of the available chapters have been updated from the [current Comprehensive Plan](#) to reflect recent plans and studies, updated state legislation, and extensive community feedback, seeking to create a streamlined plan that will be easier to read and implement.

Updates throughout the draft chapters include the removal of unnecessary text as well as new, moved, or removed policies. Also included are minor edits to the language to ensure clarity and consistency throughout the Plan. Not all minor edits have been marked, but icons and notes (shown in the sidebar on the right) provide additional insight into larger changes. Any policies removed from the chapter are highlighted at the end.

Additional changes to each chapter are likely to occur based on continued [Climate Planning](#) and [Racially Disparate Impacts Analysis](#) as well as public feedback and the selection of a preferred alternative for the final Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). See PlanSpokane.org for more information on all the ongoing work for PlanSpokane 2046.

In summary, to date, this chapter has seen the following changes:

Economic Prosperity **REPORT CARD**



Action	Number of Policies
New Goals & Policies	9
Removed Goals & Policies	8
Changed Goals & Policies (Moved, Change in Direction)	5

To help track where changes have been made, the following icons will appear where:



General information or notation is provided, clarifying changes to the existing text.



Language was streamlined or condensed. Minor changes won't be marked.



New text or policy was added, not sourced from the current plan.



Two or more policies in the existing plan were combined into one.



A policy or language was added because of a change in state law requirements.



Climate and Resiliency work might impact this language in the future.



Racially Disparate Impacts or Displacement work may impact this language in the future.



Text, goals, or policies were removed—a reason will be provided.

Economic Prosperity

Introduction

Economic prosperity is the sustained, concerted actions of policy makers and community members that strengthen local businesses, support workforce development, and provide access to improved well-being and quality of life. A strong economy provides for a growing community through the creation of jobs and other business opportunities and builds a tax base supporting essential services such as schools, police, fire, and parks.

Either through services, incentives, or physical infrastructure, the City actively shapes the built environment to support and foster a healthy economy. Public-private partnerships as well as partnerships between all levels of government are also a crucial component in the promotion of long-term economic growth. The City's role in economic prosperity involves providing public sector advocacy and investment in support of quality job creation, retention, and diversification.

Goals and Policies

Goals and policies provide specificity for planning and decision-making. Overall, they indicate desired directions, accomplishments, or aims in relation to the growth and development of Spokane.

Goal: EP-1, Cooperative Partnerships

Encourage cooperative partnerships between the City, regional jurisdictions and agencies, the private sector, and community members to support the economic expansion of the city.

Policy: EP-1.1, Participation in Regional Economic Development

Participate in regional economic development planning and programs with both the public and private sectors, ensuring plans and policies are coordinated, monitored for long-term success, and implemented in a timely manner.

Policy: EP-1.2, Economic Development Progress

Work with regional jurisdictions, organizations, and community members to periodically review economic vitality metrics such as wages, percentage of population below the poverty level, and business formation and expansion, ensuring all economic development plans and actions are informed by and reflect current data.



The introduction has been substantially rewritten, as the current version is too focused in the past, not the current realities of economic development and the City's situation.

Additionally, a new title is proposed for this chapter that encompasses prosperity as a whole, not only growth and development.



The first three original policies under goal 1 overlapped considerably. They have been combined into two policies here (1.1 and 1.2). Also, some of the omitted discussion language from the current document has moved into the policies themselves.

Policy: EP-1.3, Public-Private Partnerships

Partner with the private sector to extend infrastructure for development, provide incentives and education, and support the creation of well-paying jobs and quality affordable housing for Spokane's workforce.

Goal: EP-2, Development and Redevelopment of Land and Structures

Ensure the supply of industrial and commercial properties is sufficient to meet the future economic needs of the City.

Policy: EP-2.1, Land Supply and Site Selection

Remove barriers to entry for new, expanding, and relocating industries by providing various site-by-site analytics and feasibility information, and implementing incentives.

Policy: EP-2.2, Reuse and Revitalization Opportunities

Provide targeted redevelopment incentives and other support for historic, abandoned, or underutilized sites in parts of the city where infrastructure and service capacity already exist.

Policy: EP-2.3, Cleanup of Contaminated Sites

Offer site assessment, clean up, and redevelopment assistance for environmentally contaminated properties, such as identified brownfields, so those sites can be revitalized or mitigated to protect the health of residents and the environment.

Goal: EP-3, Resilient, Sustainable, and Diverse Economies

Foster a resilient, sustainable, and diverse economy providing a range of employment and business opportunities.

Policy: EP-3.1, Economic Growth

Support the formation, retention, expansion, and recruitment of businesses and industries through programs, incentives, and partnerships that support economic growth within the city.

Policy: EP-3.2, Economic Diversity

Encourage economic diversity by creating programs and policies supporting small and large businesses that provide a healthy balance of goods-producing and service-producing jobs.

Policy: EP-3.3, Co-Locating Related Businesses

Incentivize and approve related and supportive economic sectors or industries to locate near each other, creating productivity advantages from their mutual proximity and relationships.



Housing as a topic has been added to policy 1.3 to support HB1110 and the requirements of HB1220. Education was also added to policy 1.3 due to input received during public engagement.



Policy 2.1 has been rewritten but has largely the same effect as the current version.



Reuse and revitalization can benefit Climate & Resiliency efforts; thus, this policy may be updated later.



This was formerly policy 8.5 under a separate goal. It was moved here. Brownfields were identified specifically as they represent a major option for City involvement.



Policy 3.2 has been updated slightly to concentrate on City action on this front.



Policy 3.3 was updated to include industries that support each other, not only those that are the same (i.e. lumber sales near cabinetmakers). Updates for Climate topics are expected later as well.

Policy: EP-3.4, Small and Locally Owned Businesses

Support programs and opportunities to expand and increase the number of small and locally owned businesses in Spokane to provide economic stability and community-building.

Policy: EP-3.5, Home-Based Businesses

Encourage opportunities for creating and expanding home-based businesses while minimizing impacts on the surrounding community.

Policy: EP-3.6, Technology-Based Industries

Assist the development of advanced and emerging technology-based industries by supporting education, identifying key infrastructure improvements, and ensuring a welcoming economic environment.

Policy: EP-3.7, Sustainable Economic Strategies

Develop and implement programs assisting and supporting businesses that minimize physical, social, and environmental impacts, including any businesses that specialize in environmental protection and remediation.

Policy: EP-3.8, Regional Marketplace

Support growth of the regional economic environment creating markets for local services and products, as well as supporting more well-paying jobs.

Policy: EP-3.9, Downtown Spokane

Promote Downtown Spokane as the economic and cultural center of the region by supporting the City's economic partners, continually improving Downtown's commercial activity and employment opportunities, attracting arts and entertainment, supporting tourism and recreation, and incentivizing the development of downtown housing.

Policy: EP-3.10, Development Standards and Permitting Process

Provide an efficient, predictable, and customer-focused permitting process to foster a positive business climate and ease needed development.

Goal: EP-4, Living Wage Jobs and Income Disparity

Enhance the economic conditions of the community by encouraging living wage jobs, building personal wealth and economic resiliency, reducing income disparity, and mitigating displacement of locally owned businesses.

Policy: EP-4.1, Living Wage Jobs

Encourage the recruitment and expansion of businesses paying at least a living wage while providing competitive benefits to support increased wealth and economic resiliency for all residents.



Policies EP 3.5 (locally owned business) and EP 3.6 (small business) have been combined here into policy 3.4, as they had similar intent and effect.



Home-based businesses can have Land Use ramifications. As such, a cross-reference to the Land Use chapter might be added here (policy 3.5).



Policy 3.7 is a combination of original policies 8.2 and 8.4. This topic will also be informed and/or updated by ongoing Climate work.



The selection of preferred alternative in the EIS may affect this policy, as the overall development strategy may amend downtown focus.



Formerly policy 7.6, this policy has been reworked to function better as policy.



This goal will likely be influenced further by the discussion of RDI and displacement in the City.

Policy: EP-4.2, Income Equity

Support local and regional community-based organizations and agencies to address income equity and employment opportunities.

Policy: EP-4.3 Commercial Displacement

Promote and establish programs and incentives that mitigate displacement of locally owned businesses resulting from development and redevelopment.

Goal: EP-5, Education and Workforce Development

Improve Spokane's economy through a qualified and competitive labor force, responsive to the changing needs of the city.

Policy: EP-5.1, Youth Programs

Promote and facilitate youth programs that provide exposure and experiences that support future and potential employment opportunities, including through development of community resources and facilities that support these programs.

Policy: EP-5.2, Post-Secondary Education and Job Training

Support continued efforts by the educational community to contribute to the health of Spokane's economy through post-secondary plans, programs, and activities.

Policy: EP-5.3, Communication Links

Encourage greater communication between the city, educational and training providers, businesses, employees, and residents to meet community educational and job-training needs.

Policy: EP-5.4, Employment Opportunities for All

Provide training and employment opportunities for all residents, including supported employment.

Policy: EP-5.5, Libraries as an Educational Resource

Provide services through the Spokane library system that help educate, train, and assist residents in achieving new or better employment and business opportunities.

Goal: EP-6, Infrastructure Development and Maintenance

Consider the needs of new businesses and employers when planning future infrastructure upgrades and installations, accommodating necessary growth in jobs and employment, in addition to housing needs.



Policy 4.3 has been added because of ongoing work on Displacement required by HB1220.



Formerly policy 5.2, this policy has been substantially rewritten to be more applicable to actions the City can take.



Policy 5.5 (formerly 5.8) has been updated to better match the role of libraries today and to strengthen connection to Economic Development.



Goal 6 and its policies have been reworked to focus on economic development, not infrastructure in general. A cross-reference to the Capital Facilities chapter is likely to be included here.

Policy: EP-6.1, Investment in Public Infrastructure

Ensure fiscally responsible economic growth by aligning incentives for business and economic development with existing public infrastructure capacity.

Policy: EP-6.2, Infrastructure as a Catalyst for Private Investment

Recognize, support, and identify opportunities for targeted public infrastructure improvements that catalyze business and economic growth, supporting a healthy business climate.

Policy: EP-6.3, Communication Facilities and Networks

Develop a program by which the City will co-locate communication and network infrastructure with other public infrastructure projects, ensuring support for new high-speed communication whenever possible.

Policy: EP-6.4, Growing Communication Infrastructure Needs

Facilitate efforts to implement leading edge communication and networking technology throughout the city to support business needs and economic growth.

Policy: EP-6.5, Infrastructure Maintenance and Improvement

Maintain public infrastructure at a level commensurate with required levels-of-service while also considering infrastructure investments that can support future commercial and industrial enterprises to enhance the city's business climate.

Policy: EP-6.6, Investment Caused Displacement

Establish programs and policies to mitigate displacement caused by public investments in areas of historic underinvestment, ensuring that these areas receive the benefits of public investment while reducing the associated risks.

Goal: EP-7, Economic Regulations and Taxes

Ensure a regulatory environment and tax structure that supports economic activity, investment, and growth.

Policy: EP-7.1, Revenue Sources

Ensure that tax revenue sources are stable and predictable, allocate costs equitably within the community, do not penalize desired types of businesses, and attract and retain businesses and residents.

Policy: EP-7.2, Tax Incentives for Land Improvement

Support tax instruments and levies that encourage business investment and construction, especially in centers and other areas identified for significant development.



Policy 6.2 is new, highlighting a successful strategy employed many times by the City in the past.



Policy 6.3 has been updated to focus on co-location of facilities.



Policy 6.4 is new, highlighting the need for the plan to accommodate new economies and needs.



Policy 6.5 is a combination of original policies 6.1 and 6.4.



Policy 6.6 has been added because of ongoing work on Displacement required by HB1220.



Policy 7.2 might change later, depending on the Preferred Alternative selected by the City.

Policy: EP-7.3, Tax Incentives for Renovation

Use tax incentives and investments to encourage revitalization, modernization, or rehabilitation of deteriorated residential and commercial properties and buildings for new economic activity.

Goal: EP-8, Creative Economy

Support the creative economy through targeted investments in infrastructure, incentives, education, workforce development, jobs, and business growth for arts, culture, film, music, nightlife, and other creative industry occupations.

Policy: EP 8.1, Creative Spaces

Collaborate in the establishment of accessible spaces that support start-up creative industries.

Policy: EP 8.2, Local Investment

Identify programs, incentives, and policies to support increased City and local investment in artists, arts and cultural nonprofits, and creative businesses.

Policy: EP 8.3, Creative Districts

Support and implement statewide programs, such as creative districts, to enhance the use of incentives and other economic strategies that support the creative economy.

Policy: EP 8.4, Support Neighborhood Cultural Activities

Elevate and support neighborhood cultural assets, ensuring that residents and visitors can easily access the creative economy in every neighborhood.

Goal: EP-9, Recreation and Tourism Promotion

Protect the natural and built environment as assets that attract economic opportunities and enhance the City of Spokane's quality of life.

Policy: EP-9.1, Promote Regional Natural Resources

Promote the region's outdoor amenities, recreational opportunities, and agritourism as features of both social benefit and economic growth, while protecting the natural resources for the future.

Policy: EP-9.2, Supporting and Promoting Tourism

Partner with interested community organizations and local businesses on the promotion of the natural and built environment assets in the City of Spokane, as well as the larger region, to attract visitors and private investment to the city.



Policy 2.2 and 7.3 work very closely together—2.2 calling for action and 7.3 providing a way to fund that action. As such, a cross-reference is likely to be included here.



This new goal and its policies have been a frequent topic of public engagement. Also, as it relates closely to arts and culture topics, a cross-reference is likely here to the Social Health chapter.



Originally, this was Goal 8. It has substantially reworked to better match the original effect while strengthening the relationship between the natural beauty of Spokane, it's tourism industry, and the economic environment.



A cross-reference to both Natural Environment and Social Health is likely to be added for this goal and policies.

Policy: EP-9.3, Tourism and Events as an Economic Benefit

Attract and incentivize events in the city that bring in regional and out-of-state visitors, supporting the local economy and raising national attention to Spokane.

POLICIES REMOVE FROM THE TEXT:

The following policies in blue have been removed from the text, largely due to redundancy, unclear goals/success, and similar factors.

Policy: ED-2.3, Reusable Buildings Inventory

Continue to maintain an inventory of historic and significant older buildings that could be redeveloped for economic activities rather than demolished.

Policy: ED-2.4, Mixed-Use

Support mixed-use development that brings employment, shopping, and residential activities into shared locations that stimulate opportunities for economic activity.

Policy: ED-3.3, Enterprise Opportunities

Continue to create economic development opportunities utilizing tools available to the city which will foster the growth of Spokane's economy.

Policy: ED-4.2, Benchmark Indicators

Work with the private sector to establish benchmark indicators for employment and income levels, monitor progress toward reaching those levels, and prepare an annual status report on progress.

Policy: ED-5.1, K-12 Education

Work cooperatively with local schools to help maintain and enhance the quality of K-12 education in the city's schools.

Policy: ED-5.4, Program Evaluation

Support efforts to introduce new, high-quality programs into the curricula of area technical schools, community colleges, colleges, and universities that address the changing needs of businesses and employees.



Policy 2.3 is too similar in intent and effect to Policy 2.2, thus it's redundant.



Policy 2.4 is more appropriately addressed in the Land Use Chapter instead of here.



Policy 3.3 is far too broad and already covered by the many policies in this chapter.



This is an implementation item, already conducted by the City. As a policy it does not inform decision making directly.



The City is unable to influence school curricula. Other policies remaining in the chapter allow for interaction with students. Thus, removal of policies 5.1 and 5.4 is recommended.

Policy: ED-5.6, Employer Training Support

Encourage employers to support continuing education and training for their employees.

Policy: ED-7.1, Collaborative Nurturing of the Business Climate

Work with the business community, labor, economic development organizations and residents to maintain a good business climate.

Policy: ED-7.3, State Tax Changes

Lobby the state legislature for changes in state tax laws to allow more options or mechanisms to be available as incentives to business investment.



The City does not have the ability/tools necessary to directly influence how employers train their staff.



Policy 7.1 concerns more the overall concept of Economic Development rather than any policy direction the City can implement.



Lobbying is an implementation action and the purview of Council/Mayor, not overall City operations and decision making.