

PlanSpokane 2046 Environmental Justice Review Memorandum

APRIL 2026

Introduction

This memorandum outlines the context, approach, and key findings from the City of Spokane's PlanSpokane 2046 Environmental Justice (EJ) Review. The EJ Review evaluated how PlanSpokane 2046 Land Use and Transportation elements draft policies as of March 2026 may impact communities and identified where implementation guidance or policy language edits are recommended to strengthen equitable outcomes. Visit [PlanSpokane 2046](#) for more information.

The EJ Review supports the City in meeting the Growth Management Act's (GMA) requirements for Land Use and Transportation elements (RCW 36.70A.070), including the Land Use requirement to give special consideration to achieving environmental justice in goals and policies and avoid creating or worsening environmental health disparities. This EJ Review also aligns with requirements for citizen participation and coordination (RCW 36.70A.020).

Approach

The EJ Review applied an equity framework, drew from key planning documents, and incorporated insights from community engagement to evaluate how PlanSpokane 2046 policies within the Land Use and Transportation elements affect priority communities.

Equity Framework

Three core equity concepts¹ framed the EJ Review analysis, as illustrated in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Core Equity Concepts

Equity Concept	What It Means
Distributional Equity	Ensures benefits and burdens are distributed fairly across communities, with attention to those that have historically shouldered disproportionate costs.
Procedural Equity	Ensures communities, especially those historically excluded, have meaningful opportunities to participate in decisions. Focuses on access, engagement, and transparency.
Recognitional Equity	Acknowledges diverse identities, histories, cultures, and lived experiences, including past inequities and community context.

Documents Informing This Review

In addition to the core equity concepts, the EJ Review drew from several key documents and engagement activities from PlanSpokane 2046 and Climate Planning:

- **Spokane Climate Impacts and Climate Justice Memo** – Identifies vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, inequities, and local justice considerations.
- **Spokane Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA)** – Provides neighborhood-level exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity information that helps contextualize who is most affected, grounded in data and community engagement results.
- **PlanSpokane 2046 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)** – Supports understanding of environmental consequences for growth alternatives, including cumulative impacts and areas where policies may create or reduce burdens.
- **Spokane Climate Planning Phase 2 Focus Groups Engagement Summary** – Synthesizes cross-cutting themes and policy-relevant insights from Phase 2 Climate Planning focus groups held in November and December of 2025, including Youth, Climate Justice, Food Security, and Barriers to Access sessions.

¹ A. Giang, M.R. Edwards, S.M. Fletcher, R. Gardner-Frolick, R. Gryba, J. Mathias, C. Venier-Cambron, J.M. Anderies, E. Berglund, S. Carley, J.S. Erickson, E. Grubert, A. Hadjimichael, J. Hill, E. Mayfield, D. Nock, K.K. Pikok, R.K. Saari, M. Samudio Lezcano, A. Siddiqi, J.B. Skerker, & C.W. Tessum, Equity and modeling in sustainability science: Examples and opportunities throughout the process, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 121 (13) e2215688121, Url: <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2215688121> (2024).

- [PlanSpokane 2046 Environmental Justice Workshop Summary](#) – Synthesizes findings from the Environmental Justice Workshop held in February 2026 to gather input from community members on environmental justice implications for the Land Use and Transportation elements.

These documents served as foundational inputs and helped ensure the EJ Review reflected the best available data and current understanding of community priorities and concerns.

Key Insights from Engagement

SPOKANE CLIMATE PLANNING PHASE 2 FOCUS GROUPS

The City of Spokane and Alex Panagotacos Consulting hosted focus groups in November and December of 2025 on the following topics: Youth, Climate Justice, Food Security, and Barriers to Access. Insights from these discussions informed the EJ Review’s evaluation of priority communities affected, distributional benefits and burdens, and implementation considerations across all policies. The table below summarizes how the EJ Review’s evaluation criteria reflect key themes, lived experiences, and policy design insights shared by participants during focus group discussions. For more details, the full engagement summary is available on planspokane.org.

EJ Review Category	Focus Groups Feedback That Informed the Review
Priority Communities Affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children and people with chronic health conditions are more sensitive to heat and smoke events. ● Older adults, people with disabilities, and transit-dependent individuals may struggle to access emergency services or evacuate during climate events. ● Renters and low-income households have fewer resources to prepare for and respond to climate impacts. ● People in neighborhoods with aging infrastructure or limited tree canopy face higher exposure to heat, smoke, and unsafe travel conditions.
Distributional Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transportation and public realm investments are needed to improve transit reliability, enhance winter plowing for pedestrians and cyclists, provide shade and cooling, ensure safe crossings, and support continuous bike and pedestrian routes. ● Increased access to essential services and food supports food security under climate stress. ● Well-maintained parks, public spaces, and cooling/water services, provide climate resilience benefits, especially for youth.
Distributional Costs / Burdens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policies that do not account for existing economic, housing, health, and access barriers risk worsening inequities by benefiting those with more resources to adapt. ● The costs of climate investments, such as tree planting, are often borne by residents and can disproportionately impact renters, older adults, and low-income households.

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EJ Review Category	Focus Groups Feedback That Informed the Review
Implementation Considerations to Improve Procedural Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unreliable transit, extreme heat, and unsafe parks create daily burdens that disproportionately restrict mobility for youth, people with disabilities, and low-income families. • There is a need for strong implementation and long-term follow-through, including pairing policy adoption with sustained funding, maintenance, monitoring, and enforcement. • Offer practical, hands-on engagement that builds skills and fosters trust. • Engagement must be an ongoing relationship. Impacted communities should be involved throughout planning and implementation.

PLANSPOKANE 2046 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP

To ensure the EJ Review reflected the lived experiences and priorities of Spokane residents, the City of Spokane, Cascadia Consulting Group, and BERK Consulting hosted a PlanSpokane 2046 Environmental Justice Virtual Workshop in February of 2026. Spanish interpretation and \$75 participant stipends were provided to support greater access to the workshop, allowing the project to benefit from a wider range of lived experiences. Participants shared how transportation and land use currently affects their neighborhoods and what changes would advance environmental justice. Insights from the workshop informed the EJ Review’s evaluation of priority communities affected, distributional benefits and costs/burdens, and implementation considerations across policies. The table below summarizes the feedback most directly relevant to land use and transportation policies. For more details, the full engagement summary is available [online](#).

EJ Review Category	Workshop Feedback That Informed the Review
Priority Communities Affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with disabilities and transit-dependent residents experience barriers to walking, rolling, and transit access, including gaps in sidewalk connectivity, inaccessible curb ramps, and transit reliability challenges along key routes, even as assets like the City Line Bus Rapid Transit were highlighted as important improvements. • Renters and low-income households are vulnerable to rising rents, displacement, and lack of or limited essential services within walking distance, with some residents describing tradeoffs between housing costs and basic needs like food. • Residents in neighborhoods with limited access to essential services, sparse tree canopy, and inadequate shade and cooling face additional barriers to mobility, especially when traveling without a car. For example, participants identified Logan and other neighborhoods within Northeast Spokane as areas with limited access to affordable grocery stores and essential services, and the West Hills neighborhood as lacking key amenities such as schools, libraries, and nearby parks.

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EJ Review Category	Workshop Feedback That Informed the Review
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marginalized groups who have historically been excluded from planning processes continue to experience inequitable outcomes, including limited influence over decisions that shape investments in their neighborhoods.
Distributional Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is strong support for improved sidewalks, safer bike infrastructure, and better transit access, with participants specifically identifying the City Line Bus Rapid Transit as a valued investment that improves connectivity and access to daily needs. • There is an emphasis on shaded walking and rolling routes, heat mitigation, and safer crossings, including requests for lighted crosswalks, and cooling elements, to support health and comfort, particularly during extreme heat and along high-traffic corridors. • There is a desire for essential services such as schools, groceries, libraries, and community-serving amenities like farmers markets within walking distance, strengthening benefits tied to reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMT), improved livability, and better access to opportunity • Participants also expressed support for policies such as free transit fares for minors to improve equitable access to mobility.
Distributional Costs / Burdens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about rising rents and displacement underscore the burdens associated with new development, transit investments, and mixed-use improvements, especially when investments increase neighborhood desirability without corresponding affordability protections. • Barriers experienced by transit-dependent individuals and residents with disabilities highlight risks when multimodal infrastructure is incomplete or poorly maintained, such as missing sidewalk segments or unsafe crossings near transit stops. • Unequal access to essential services reinforces the burdens associated with existing land use disparities, particularly in neighborhoods that have historically lacked investment and continue to experience gaps in infrastructure and amenities.
Implementation Considerations to Improve Procedural Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-displacement and affordability strategies should be embedded into growth and transportation policies, including tools such as tenant protections, community land trusts, and affordability requirements. • Shaded transit stops, cooling elements, and safer crossings such as lighted crosswalks can help mitigate impacts from heat and vehicle traffic, improving comfort and safety for daily transit users. • Equitable distribution of transportation, shade, and essential service improvements across all neighborhoods is critical, including in areas identified in the workshop as under-resourced.

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EJ Review Category	Workshop Feedback That Informed the Review
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning processes should more intentionally include marginalized communities in decision-making through language access, culturally relevant outreach, compensation for participation, and decentralized engagement strategies such as meeting people at community events, churches, and local businesses.• Each neighborhood should be directly engaged to identify its priorities and inform place-based strategies, recognizing that needs vary across different parts of the city.• Building and maintaining relationships with trusted community leaders who have strong ties within priority neighborhoods is essential to support ongoing engagement and trust over time.

Environmental Justice Review Findings

EJ Review Structure

While this memorandum outlines the context, approach, and key findings of the EJ Review, it also reflects a comprehensive evaluation of draft Land Use and Transportation policies conducted by the consulting team. The analysis presented in this memo synthesizes detailed policy-level review findings to highlight key themes, priority communities, and implementation considerations that shape equitable outcomes.

Across draft Land Use and Transportation policies, the EJ Review:

- **Evaluates the distribution of benefits and burdens across communities**, identifying where impacts may be equitably shared or disproportionately experienced.
- **Identifies which communities are most affected**, considering existing social, economic, and environmental conditions.
- **Assesses how implementation conditions influence outcomes**, recognizing where equitable results depend on how policies are carried out.
- **Highlights implementation actions to improve equity**, including procedural and recognition equity through engagement, accessibility, and responsiveness to community needs.
- **Identifies opportunities to refine policy language or implementation approaches** to better support equitable outcomes.

Overarching Findings

The EJ Review found that most policy language is **neutral to positive in intent**. Many policies are **high-level and planning-oriented**, meaning their equity impacts are not fully clear in the policy language itself and will depend heavily on the specifics of implementation. Therefore, while few policies create direct burdens on their own, several have the potential to **reinforce or exacerbate existing inequities if not implemented with an explicit equity lens**.

In summary:

- **3 policies were rated as negative**, meaning they may create, maintain, or exacerbate inequities without clear safeguards in place.
- **16 policies were rated as neutral**, meaning their equity impacts are unclear, indirect, or dependent on implementation details.

- **39 policies were rated as positive**, meaning they are likely to advance equity or provide meaningful benefits to priority communities.

Implementation Recommendations

The EJ Review indicates that while many policies are directionally supportive of equity, their ultimate impacts will depend on implementation. The following considerations are intended to help ensure that implementation across policies advances equitable outcomes and avoids reinforcing existing disparities.

Key Definitions

To support a shared understanding of the approaches referenced below, the following terms² are defined, in alignment with Washington Department of Commerce definitions:

- **Co-governance:** Shared decision-making between the City and community members, particularly those most impacted, grounded in principles of self-determination and equitable participation. This includes:
 - Committing to community self-determination
 - Building community capacity to participate
 - Sharing governing power in process and decision-making
 - Ensuring equitable processes and outcomes
- **Co-design:** Collaborative development of plans, programs, or projects with community members (e.g., residents helping design transportation improvements or neighborhood plans)
- **Negotiated decision-making:** Structured processes to reach agreement between the City and affected communities, especially where tradeoffs exist (e.g., siting decisions or project impacts)
- **Inclusive engagement:** Engagement that is accessible, culturally relevant, and representative, including language access, compensation, and flexible participation options
- **Accountability:** The extent to which decisions and actions clearly assign responsibility for limiting harm and ensuring equitable outcomes, including identifying who is responsible, prioritizing effective solutions, and demonstrating follow-through over time.

² Washington State Department of Commerce, *Integrating Climate Justice in Growth Management Planning: Summary Report* (developed in partnership with Front & Centered through the Uplift Communities project).

1. Embed Anti-Displacement Protections in Growth and Redevelopment Implementation

Growth and redevelopment policies can expand housing and improve access to services, but both EJ Review findings and community input consistently identified displacement and rising housing costs as key concerns associated with growth. To ensure that the benefits of growth are equitably realized and do not exacerbate existing disparities, the City should consider the following actions:

- Develop a **comprehensive, citywide anti-displacement strategy** to guide decision-making across policies and projects, in alignment with HB 1220 and the City's [Racially Disparate Impacts Analysis Report \(2025\)](#)
- Partner with communities most at risk of displacement through **co-governance** to co-develop priorities and anti-displacement strategies
- Establish **clear accountability measures**, including tracking displacement indicators (e.g., rent increases, evictions, redevelopment trends)
- Develop and implement anti-displacement strategies, including **community wealth-building approaches** (e.g., community land trusts, shared equity models, and small business stabilization) that support long-term housing and economic stability

Additional guidance and examples of anti-displacement strategies are available through the Washington Department State of Commerce and other peer resources, including:

- [HB 1220 \(Racially Disparate Impacts Guidance\)](#)
- [Anti-Displacement Guidance for Housing Action Plans](#)
- [Developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy](#)

2. Prioritize Infrastructure Investments to Advance Environmental Justice

Policies support infrastructure and environmental improvements, but the EJ Review findings indicate that without clear prioritization, investments may continue to be unevenly distributed, reinforcing existing disparities across neighborhoods. To ensure that investments are directed to communities with the greatest need and advance equitable outcomes, the City should consider the following actions:

- Establish a **cross-sector prioritization framework** that integrates equity, safety, and climate considerations
- Define **clear equity criteria** to guide project selection and funding, such as prioritizing areas identified by EJ screening tools (e.g., [Washington State Environmental Health Disparities Map](#)),

climate vulnerability maps from the CRVA, and displacement-risk indicators, and applying those criteria to capital and infrastructure investments, environmental remediation, and neighborhood-scale resilience projects

- Involve priority communities in **setting investment priorities** and decision-making processes
- Track and **publicly report investment distribution and outcomes** to support accountability
- Apply a **targeted universalism** approach, which is the setting of shared citywide goals and directing greater resources and tailored strategies to communities with the highest needs (e.g., based on climate vulnerability, displacement risk, or infrastructure gaps)

3. Reduce Disproportionate Cost Burdens

Several policies may introduce or shift costs to residents, particularly through infrastructure requirements, pricing strategies, or development standards. EJ Review findings suggest that without intentional design, these costs may disproportionately impact lower-income households and small businesses. To ensure affordability and avoid disproportionate burdens, the City should consider the following actions:

- Provide **income-based incentives, waivers, or slide-scale assistance** for households and small businesses most affected by new fees, rate increases, or compliance costs, such as utility charges, permit fees, connection fees, or mandatory upgrade requirements.
- Evaluate **how costs are distributed** across residents, small businesses, and property owners
- Engage communities through **co-governance** to understand lived impacts and tradeoffs
- Establish **accountability measures** to monitor affordability impacts over time
- Align policies with community **wealth-building and economic development opportunities** where possible

4. Strengthen Inclusive and Ongoing Community Engagement in Decision-Making

Planning and implementation processes may not fully reflect the needs and priorities of all communities, particularly those who have been historically underrepresented in decision-making. The EJ Review findings and community input indicate that more sustained, accessible, and inclusive engagement is needed to meaningfully inform decisions. To ensure that community input shapes outcomes and reflects diverse perspectives, the City should consider the following actions:

- Provide **early and continuous engagement opportunities** throughout planning and implementation, rather than one-time input

- Ensure engagement is **culturally relevant, multilingual, and accessible**, including language access, compensation, and flexible participation formats, in alignment with [SMC 18.11 Language Access in Municipal Proceedings](#)
- Move beyond outreach to incorporate **co-governance, co-design, and negotiated decision-making**, particularly for communities most impacted by policies
- Establish **clear accountability for how community input is incorporated into decisions**, including documenting how feedback shapes outcomes
- Prioritize equitable and culturally informed engagement with **historically underrepresented and overburdened communities**, while maintaining inclusive opportunities for all residents

5. Coordinate Land Use and Transportation Planning to Avoid Shifting Burdens

Land Use and Transportation policies are closely linked, but siloed implementation across land use, housing, transit, and parking policies may shift or concentrate burdens. For example, growth in areas without adequate transit, or transit-oriented development (TOD) supportive land uses that are not sequenced or coordinated with transit investments (e.g., bus rapid transit development), may increase costs, and reduce access for priority communities. To ensure coordinated implementation supports access, affordability, and mobility, the City should consider the following actions:

- Strengthen **coordination across divisions and departments** to align planning and implementation
- Establish **shared accountability metrics** across Land Use and Transportation (e.g., affordable housing near transit, access to frequent transit, reductions in vehicle miles traveled, traffic safety outcomes, and the geographic distribution of investments).
- **Sequence investments intentionally** (e.g., aligning TOD-supportive land uses with transit investments such as bus rapid transit, and pairing these with affordability and anti-displacement measures)
- Engage communities in **co-governance** to shape how these systems interact locally
- Monitor and **adaptively manage outcomes** (e.g., track housing costs, displacement trends, transit access, and infrastructure investment patterns, and adjust programs or investments as needed) to ensure policies reduce, rather than shift, burdens

Findings by Land Use and Transportation Element Goal

The following section provides a detailed, goal-by-goal summary of draft Land Use and Transportation policies as of March 2026, including key benefits, potential risks or burdens, priority communities most impacted, and implementation considerations.

Findings by Land Use Goal

Goal	Key Benefits	Potential Risks / Burdens	Priority Communities Most Impacted	Implementation Considerations
LU-1, Uses of Land	Expands access to parks, open space, and urban agriculture; improves health, food access, and environmental outcomes; prioritizes historically underserved areas for investment.	Limited direct burdens; potential localized challenges or uneven distribution of benefits if not equitably implemented.	Low-income residents; renters; communities of color; youth and older adults; residents with limited food access; residents in areas with limited park access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize investments and neighborhood planning in underserved areas while engaging historically underrepresented communities through co-governance approaches. • Support housing affordability and stability through middle housing, mixed-income development, and anti-displacement strategies, including monitoring housing trends and responding to displacement risks. • Align higher-density development with transit, services, and infrastructure, and coordinate with regional partners to mitigate impacts from major projects in overburdened communities. • Improve access to essential services, including food, jobs, and transportation, through urban agriculture, community-serving uses, and multimodal connections. • Ensure equitable distribution of environmental benefits by prioritizing parks, tree canopy, and green infrastructure in high-heat and low-access areas, while pairing these investments with strategies to prevent green gentrification.
LU-2, Land Use Context	Reduces exposure to pollution, noise, and environmental hazards; improves compatibility between uses;	Land use restrictions may limit development opportunities or housing supply; legacy uses may continue to create localized burdens if not mitigated.	Low-income residents; renters; communities of color; residents with chronic health conditions; residents near industrial and/or high-traffic areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and mitigate impacts from incompatible and legacy land uses through case-by-case analysis, buffers, design standards, and environmental protections, while partnering with affected communities.

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Goal	Key Benefits	Potential Risks / Burdens	Priority Communities Most Impacted	Implementation Considerations
	protects public health and safety.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure transparent communication and accessible engagement with residents, particularly in areas affected by airport operations, infrastructure projects, or development changes, and monitor environmental and air quality impacts. • Align growth and development decisions with coordinated investments in infrastructure, services, and public facilities, prioritizing historically underserved neighborhoods. • Support housing affordability and stability by monitoring redevelopment trends, evaluating zoning and lot size standards, and pairing land use changes with anti-displacement and housing preservation strategies. • Develop and apply equity indicators to track impacts of development patterns and implement mitigation measures when affordability or environmental thresholds are reached.
LU-3, Accommodating Housing Capacity	Increases housing supply and access to transit; supports affordability goals; acknowledges displacement risk; improves access to services and opportunities.	Increased redevelopment pressure and rising housing costs may lead to displacement; benefits may not reach priority communities without safeguards.	Low-income residents; renters; communities of color; transit-dependent individuals; manufactured housing residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify how displacement risks will be evaluated and addressed through specific strategies such as housing preservation, affordability requirements, and monitoring of housing cost trends. • Pair growth and transit-oriented development with affordability and anti-displacement measures to ensure lower-income residents benefit from increased housing and access to services. • Incorporate co-governance and community-informed approaches to mitigate unintended impacts of redevelopment on historically overburdened communities.

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Goal	Key Benefits	Potential Risks / Burdens	Priority Communities Most Impacted	Implementation Considerations
<p>LU-4, Mixed-Use</p> <p><i>Note: The LU-4 Mixed Use section of this memo include policies that were separated into a separate Urban Hub goal during the process of developing this review. Other goal numbers have been adjusted appropriately.</i></p>	<p>Improves access to services, jobs, and amenities; supports walkability and transit use; increases housing and economic opportunities.</p>	<p>May increase housing and commercial costs, leading to displacement of residents and small businesses; potential urban heat island impacts.</p>	<p>Low-income residents; renters; communities of color; small business owners; youth and older adults; unhoused residents; residents in high displacement risk areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pair urban hub development with affordability and anti-displacement strategies to ensure existing residents benefit, and incorporate co-governance and early, inclusive engagement with underrepresented communities. • Apply equity criteria to guide where urban hubs are located, prioritizing economically distressed and underserved areas to avoid uneven distribution of benefits. • Align urban hubs with multimodal transportation investments, including ADA-accessible routes, safe crossings, bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and improvements identified through community input. • Incorporate urban heat mitigation, design standards, and infrastructure improvements (e.g., lighting, loading, and accessibility) to reduce environmental and safety impacts. • Support neighborhood-serving uses and small businesses through streamlined approvals, affordability tools, and targeted investments in areas with identified service gaps.
<p>LU-6, Transit-Oriented Development</p>	<p>Reduces transportation costs; improves access to jobs and services; supports climate goals; benefits transit-dependent populations.</p>	<p>Increased land values near transit may displace lower-income residents; benefits may bypass those most in need without protections.</p>	<p>Low-income residents; renters; communities of color; transit-dependent individuals; people with disabilities; youth and older adults.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pair transit-oriented development with affordable housing, anti-displacement, and community wealth-building strategies to ensure priority communities benefit from improved access. • Engage communities early through co-governance to identify needed amenities and address neighborhood-specific concerns. • Align VMT-reduction strategies with investments in safe, ADA-accessible multimodal infrastructure, including addressing barriers such as unsafe crossings and incomplete networks. • Incorporate greening and urban heat mitigation strategies, such as tree canopy and green infrastructure, to ensure TOD contributes to improved environmental conditions.

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Goal	Key Benefits	Potential Risks / Burdens	Priority Communities Most Impacted	Implementation Considerations
LU-7a, Mix Use, Housing, and Emissions Reduction	Increases housing supply and diversity while supporting compact development that reduces emissions and infrastructure costs. Improves access to jobs, services, and transit, and enhances environmental conditions through heat mitigation, stormwater management, and tree canopy.	Impacts depend on implementation. Infill and transit-oriented development may increase redevelopment pressure, land values, and displacement risk without affordability protections. Parking reforms may affect residents who rely on vehicles in areas with limited transit.	Low-income residents; renters; communities of color; transit-dependent individuals; people with disabilities; youth and older adults; workers with nontraditional hours; residents in high heat or low tree canopy areas; residents in high displacement risk areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pair housing growth, infill, and transit-oriented development with affordability and anti-displacement strategies. • Align land use changes with investments in transit, walking, and biking infrastructure, and tailor parking strategies to neighborhood needs. • Prioritize equitable distribution of tree canopy, green infrastructure, and heat and stormwater mitigation. • Engage communities early to guide development and identify needed amenities.
LU-7b, Resilient Land Use	Improves climate resilience by reducing exposure to hazards such as flooding, wildfire, and extreme heat. Enhances environmental quality through green infrastructure and supports more walkable, connected communities with access to services.	Impacts depend on implementation. Resilience standards and development restrictions may increase housing costs in some areas. Concentrated development may increase redevelopment pressure, and without equitable implementation, existing disparities between well-served and overburdened communities may persist.	Low-income residents; renters; communities of color; residents in flood-prone or heat-vulnerable areas; residents in the wildland–urban interface; residents with chronic health conditions; transit-dependent individuals; residents in high displacement risk areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate climate risk and environmental justice criteria into planning decisions using clear data and equity indicators. • Prioritize equitable distribution of green infrastructure and resilience investments in high-risk and historically underserved communities. • Pair resilience and development strategies with affordability measures and community-serving amenities to mitigate cost impacts. • Support community wealth-building through workforce development and green job opportunities and engage communities through co-governance to guide implementation.
LU-8, Adequate Public Lands and Facilities	Improves access to public services, facilities, and infrastructure; supports community wellbeing and service delivery. Thoughtful	Impacts depend on implementation. Siting decisions may introduce localized impacts such as noise, traffic, or environmental effects. Without equity criteria,	Low-income residents; renters; communities of color; residents in underinvested areas; residents with limited access to public services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use equity-based siting criteria; ensure community-centered engagement; distribute facilities to avoid concentration of burdens. • Prioritize investments in historically underserved areas while pairing public amenity and green space investments with anti-displacement strategies, such as housing preservation, tenant protections,

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Goal	Key Benefits	Potential Risks / Burdens	Priority Communities Most Impacted	Implementation Considerations
	siting and coordination can reduce long-term inequities and improve access to schools, utilities, and essential services.	facilities with higher impacts may be disproportionately located in historically overburdened communities or reinforce existing disparities in access to services and infrastructure.		or community ownership models, to support housing stability for existing residents.
LU-9, Urban Growth Area	Supports efficient growth by focusing on development in areas with existing infrastructure, which improves access to services, reduces transportation costs and greenhouse gas emissions, and supports walkable, connected neighborhoods. Compact growth can reduce sprawl-related costs and, when implemented well, increase housing supply in ways that help moderate overall housing costs.	Outcomes depend on implementation. Increased density and infill may contribute to infrastructure strain or housing cost pressures if not paired with investments and affordability strategies. However, these impacts are not inherent to the UGA framework and can be mitigated through coordinated planning, sufficient infrastructure capacity, and inclusive housing policies.	Low-income residents; renters; communities of color; residents in high displacement risk areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on infill and compact development within the UGA while aligning growth with investments in transit, walking, biking, and public services. • Pair growth strategies with affordable housing, anti-displacement measures, and a mix of housing types to ensure benefits reach priority communities. • Incorporate equity criteria into joint planning and coordination to avoid infrastructure and service disparities between neighborhoods. • Monitor housing and transportation cost trends and address localized impacts (e.g., infrastructure capacity, traffic, or service gaps) as development occurs.
LU-10, Annexation	Supports more coordinated service delivery, infrastructure planning, and governance across jurisdictions. Annexation can improve access to	Impacts would occur in the event of annexation and will depend on context and implementation. Changes in taxes, fees, or service standards may affect residents in areas being annexed, while existing City residents may also	Low-income residents; renters; communities of color; residents in areas subject to potential annexation; residents with limited existing infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure annexation decisions incorporate equity considerations, including impacts on service access, affordability, and infrastructure over time. • Provide clear, accessible information about annexation impacts, including potential changes to taxes, utilities, and service levels, and consider phased transitions or financial assistance to reduce burdens on low-income households.

Goal	Key Benefits	Potential Risks / Burdens	Priority Communities Most Impacted	Implementation Considerations
	City services and service consistency for residents in annexed areas when implemented equitably.	experience system-wide implications related to service provision or cost-sharing. The extent of these impacts will vary based on annexation terms, timing, and coordination across jurisdictions. Annexation is relatively infrequent, and these outcomes are not inherent to the policy itself.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate closely with surrounding jurisdictions to align service delivery and avoid gaps or inconsistencies during annexation. Evaluate inherited land use, zoning, and infrastructure conditions for consistency with City equity goals and long-term community outcomes.

Findings by Transportation Goal

Goal	Key Benefits	Potential Risks / Burdens	Priority Communities Most Impacted	Implementation Considerations
TR-1, Enhance Safety and Public Health	Improves safety (e.g., reduce crash risks) for those walking, bicycling, rolling, accessing transit, parking, and driving; improves air quality and reduces heat exposure.	Based on Spokane Police Department data from 2021, traffic enforcement strategies may disproportionately affect Black and Native residents (more likely to be reported as crime suspects, have force used against them); ³ outcomes depend on how enforcement strategies are designed and implemented.	Youth; older adults; Native residents; Black residents; people with disabilities; low-income residents; and other transit-dependent individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use data to prioritize safety, transit, and greening investments in high-injury or overburdened communities. Track outcomes by neighborhood or Council District to identify and address disparities over time. Deliver accessible, safety-focused designs and enforcement that improve access to essential destinations, advance environmental health, and avoid displacement pressures. Engage residents, transit riders, and community-based organizations early through multilingual, culturally relevant outreach.
TR-2, Promote a Sense of Place	Improves walkability and economic activity; preserves cultural assets and strengthens	May increase property values and redevelopment pressure, contributing to displacement risk.	Youth; older adults; people with disabilities; low-income residents;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate placemaking investments with anti-displacement strategies and affordable housing policies.

³ <https://my.spokanecity.org/police/news/2021/03/03/police-strategies-llc-report-on-spd-police-interaction/>

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Goal	Key Benefits	Potential Risks / Burdens	Priority Communities Most Impacted	Implementation Considerations
	cultural identity; engages community members in transportation design and decision making, including those with limited English proficiency		transit-dependent individuals; limited English proficiency residents; Native residents; Black and Latino residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize activation projects in historically underinvested neighborhoods. • Engage residents through multilingual, culturally relevant outreach so designs reflect local community identity and cultural context.
TR-3, Provide Transportation Choices for All Users	Improves safety and mobility for pedestrians, cyclists, people with disabilities, and transit-dependent individuals.	Limited direct burdens identified; outcomes depend on equitable design and access.	Youth; older adults; people with disabilities; low-income residents; transit-dependent individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize upgrades in neighborhoods with missing, unsafe, or substandard pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, especially where accessibility barriers and community concerns are documented. • Ensure safe crossings, lighting, traffic calming, and continuous bike and pedestrian facilities that do not abruptly end. • Track outcomes to ensure safety and accessibility standards are not disproportionate across neighborhoods.
TR-4, Accommodate Access to Daily Needs and Destinations	Improves multimodal access to jobs, schools, services, and daily needs, especially for transit-dependent individuals; strengthens neighborhood connectivity and supports equitable transit expansion.	Increases property values or rents, which could contribute to displacement risk; technology-based systems may exclude residents without smartphones; short-term construction may disrupt access.	Youth; older adults; people with disabilities; low-income residents; transit-dependent individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize investments, incentives, and maintenance in underserved and under connected neighborhoods with known barriers or reported needs. • Engage community members early and throughout planning, with focused outreach to lower-income and historically underserved neighborhoods and co-design with disability advocates and transit riders. • Pair transportation investments and expansions with anti-displacement and affordability strategies. • Address access barriers such as snow impacts, overcrowded bus stops, ADA-compliant detours, multilingual reporting tools, non-app access options, and safety education and pricing supports.
TR-5, Managing Transportation Level-Of-Service	Supports multimodal access, improves walking/biking/ transit conditions, and ensures sidewalks and	May increase congestion, noise, and traffic in certain areas without mitigation; may	Youth; older adults; people with disabilities; low-income residents; transit-dependent individuals; residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track safety and displacement outcomes by neighborhood or Council District to ensure equitable implementation.

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Goal	Key Benefits	Potential Risks / Burdens	Priority Communities Most Impacted	Implementation Considerations
	bike networks keep pace with development.	increase property values and displacement risk.	living in high-traffic corridors or urban heat islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider safe crossings, traffic calming, noise and speed mitigation, accessible detours, and winter access along active routes. Prioritize design changes over enforcement Incorporate greening strategies such as trees and green infrastructure
TR-6, Promote Economic Opportunity	Supports businesses and economic growth; expands affordable multimodal access to jobs, education, services, and food; reduces noise and air pollution.	May raise property values and rents, increasing displacement risk; may also increase noise or air pollution in certain neighborhoods, depending on implementation.	Youth; older adults; people with disabilities; low-income residents; transit-dependent individuals; residents living in high-traffic corridors; unhoused residents; small businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize historically underserved areas and underinvested corridors. Engage residents early, especially in growth areas, to identify where impacts are most pressing. Implement affordable housing, anti-displacement, small-business stabilization. Maintain ADA access, incorporate greening strategies, mitigate freight-related noise and pollution, and support farmers markets and third spaces.
TR-7, Maximize Public Benefits with Integration	Improves safety, mobility, and neighborhood livability, especially for people relying on transit and walking.	Construction may disrupt access without a multimodal access management plan; paving may increase urban heat island effect and flooding risks; may exclude residents without smartphone access or adequate language access.	Youth; older adults; people with disabilities; low-income residents; transit-dependent individuals; limited English proficiency residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize paving near schools, bus routes, steep grades, and in low-income neighborhoods. Use multilingual outreach and engage STA, WSDOT, Tribes, CBOs, disability advocates, and transit riders early in the process. Require ADA-compliant and easy-to-find detours, maintain business, and route access, and minimize transit disruptions. Implement parking corrals and slow-zone measures, provide non-app access options, and expand safety education and discounted low-income micromobility fares.
TR-8, Ensure Sustainable Funding for Operations and Maintenance	Enhances safety, comfort, and accessibility for people walking, rolling, and taking transit; reduces flood risks and urban heat island effect.	Limited direct burdens identified; equitable outcomes depend on how funding is allocated and prioritized.	Youth; older adults; people with disabilities; low-income residents; transit-dependent individuals; unhoused residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute maintenance funding using equity-based criteria, prioritizing neighborhoods with documented accessibility issues, aging infrastructure, high pedestrian activity, limited tree canopy, or safety concerns. Track and publicly report maintenance activities to prevent disparities in service levels citywide.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure programs are accessible to small businesses and low-income property owners to avoid cost burdens.
TR-9, Achieve Climate Goals	Encourages walking, biking, and public transit, which reduces VMT and emissions; lowers air pollution, noise, and traffic; increases access to zero-emission vehicle infrastructure.	May impose disproportionate financial and mobility burdens on low-income residents and residents with disabilities, particularly if costs or requirements are not equitably structured.	Youth; older adults; people with disabilities; low-income residents; transit-dependent individuals; small businesses; residents living in high-traffic corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus multimodal investments, mixed-use development, TDM strategies, and charging access in overburdened neighborhoods with documented mobility gaps. • Partner with community-based organizations and engage overburdened communities, transit-dependent residents, people with disabilities, low-income households, and small businesses early to guide investment decisions. • Provide easy-to-access incentives such as reduced-rate parking, income-based discounts, disability exemptions, and targeted subsidies to reduce cost burdens. • Pair parking pricing, tolling, access restrictions, and CTR requirements with reliable transit, accessible paratransit, safe walking and biking, and land-use strategies that reduce driving.
TR-10, Enhancing Resiliency in the Transportation Network	Reduces flooding and other climate hazards and improves water quality; enhances safe evacuation routes and improves everyday mobility; reduces health risks associated with extreme heat.	Limited direct burdens identified; however, equitable outcomes depend on how resilience investments are prioritized.	Residents living in high-risk flood or climate-hazard zones; low-income residents; residents with disabilities or chronic health conditions; older adults; transit-dependent individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus implementation on overburdened communities and climate-vulnerable neighborhoods with high exposure to urban heat, flooding, stormwater runoff, poor connectivity, low tree canopy, and longstanding infrastructure deficits, using equity metrics to guide project selection. • Ensure walking, biking, and rolling routes are fully accessible for daily travel and equitable evacuation, including curb ramps, lighting, wayfinding, and protected paths. • Include maintenance funding to support long-term tree canopy health and equitable upkeep across neighborhoods.

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TR-11, Achieve Context Sensitive Design	Enhances safe evacuation routes and improves everyday mobility for people walking, biking, rolling, or accessing transit; reduces air pollution, traffic, and noise; enhances access to services and improves local economies.	May increase commercial rents or contribute to displacement pressures for small businesses.	Transit-dependent individuals; low-income residents; small businesses; residents in high-traffic or climate-risk corridors, overburdened communities; residents with disabilities or chronic health conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize overburdened communities, especially areas with poor street connectivity, high climate hazard exposure, and community-identified needs. • Apply equity-based criteria to distribute benefits more fairly and reflect community-identified priorities. • Ensure walking, biking, and rolling routes are fully accessible through curb ramps, lighting, wayfinding, protected paths, and emergency management.