



City of Spokane Determination of Significance & Request for Comments on Scope of EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) for the City's Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

Date of Issuance: February 5, 2025

Lead agency: City of Spokane, Department of Planning Services

Agency Contact: **Tirrell Black**, *Assistant Planning Director, Project Manager*, [509.625.6500](tel:509.625.6500)
PlanSpokane@spokanecity.org

Description of Proposal

Spokane is preparing a periodic update to the City's Comprehensive Plan for 20 years, from 2026 to 2046. The City's Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2017. The Comprehensive Plan helps the City manage growth, provide housing and job opportunities, plan for services and infrastructure (e.g. streets, stormwater, parks), and more.

Each chapter of the plan will be updated to address new growth targets for population and jobs, and to meet changes to the Growth Management Act (GMA) since 2017 including considerations around Climate Planning and Planning for Housing at all income levels.

The Land Use Plan Map may be amended to create more housing and job opportunities and respond to growth targets, community needs, transportation investments, and environmental conditions. Zoning and other development regulations may also be amended to implement the Land Use Plan Map. Critical area regulations would be evaluated and recent state planning rules would be addressed.

The City is considering tools to facilitate environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) such as a planned action (RCW 43.21c.440) for subareas such as transit corridors or employment and mixed use centers, housing and infill development categorical exemptions (RCW 43.21c.229), or raising minor new construction thresholds (WAC 197-11-800(1)(c)).

Location of Proposal

The Comprehensive Plan primarily addresses the Spokane city limits. Secondly the plan addresses unincorporated urban growth areas and utility service areas abutting the city.

Proponent

City of Spokane

EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) Required

The City of Spokane has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared. As lead agency, the City has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS:

- Earth and water quality
- Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions
- Plants and animals
- Land use patterns and urban form
- Relationship to plans, policies, and regulations
- Population, employment, and housing
- Transportation
- Public services: police, fire and emergency medical services, parks, schools, and libraries
- Utilities: power, water, wastewater, and stormwater

The City is studying three alternatives. One alternative will be the No Action Alternative or the continuation of the current Comprehensive Plan and associated regulations. The No Action Alternative is SEPA required. In addition, two action alternatives would be evaluated to explore different ways the City can accomplish City objectives for a resilient, connected, and livable city. In addition to addressing Spokane's population and housing growth targets for the period 2026-2046, the action alternatives would consider new or expanded locations for neighborhood commercial services. Alternatives would also explore employment growth in existing or expanded centers as well as changes to land uses where there are new investments in transportation.

More information on the EIS process, as well as materials related to the Periodic Update may be reviewed on the project website: <https://my.spokanecity.org/planspokane/about/>.

Scoping

Agencies, affected Tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. The method and deadline for giving us your comments is shared below.

Written Comments: The comment period is open from **February 5, 2025 to April 7, 2025**. Please provide your comments between **8 am on February 5 and 5 pm April 7, 2025**.

Comments may be submitted two ways: (1) by email to **Tirrell Black**, *Assistant Planning Director*, PlanSpokane@spokanecity.org, with the subject line "Spokane EIS", or (2) by letter to:

Tirrell Black
City of Spokane
Department of Planning Services
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201

Meetings: Opportunities to learn more and share your input on the periodic update and EIS scope include:

- Agency and Tribes Workshop: **Wednesday, February 19** from 9:30-12:30 at the Central Library, Events A Room
- District 1 Periodic Update Visioning/Scoping Workshop: **Wednesday, March 5** from 5:30-7pm at the Northeast Community Center, LL Main Room
- Community Periodic Update Visioning/Scoping Workshop: **Wednesday, March 12** from 12-1:30pm at the Central Library, Events A Room
- District 2 Periodic Update Visioning/Scoping Workshop: **Tuesday, March 25** from 5:30-7pm at the Liberty Park Library, Events Room
- District 3 Periodic Update Visioning/Scoping Workshop: **Thursday, March 27** from 5:30-7pm at the Shadle Library, Events Room

For additional information please see: <https://my.spokanecity.org/planspokane/about/>.

Responsible Official

Spencer Gardner, Director, Planning Services, City of Spokane, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201, [509.625.6097](tel:509.625.6097), sgardner@spokanecity.org.

Signature: 

Date: **Feb 4, 2025**

Appeal process: See SMC [Section 17E.050.210](#).


City of Spokane Scoping Notice_Feb 5 2025


Final Audit Report


2025-02-04


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