



PLAN SPOKANE

Resilient | Connected | Livable | 2046

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Comment Summary

Updated March 2026

The City of Spokane is commencing a periodic update to the City’s Comprehensive Plan as required by the [Growth Management Act \(GMA\)](#). A “periodic update” is the state’s term for a full review of a Comprehensive Plan to make sure it is in conformance with any legislative changes to state law. The update also provides an opportunity to reevaluate the community’s vision for the next twenty years and how to support that envisioned growth.

As part of [PlanSpokane 2046](#), the City of Spokane is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A Draft Environmental Impact Statement identifies and analyzes a range of alternatives that describe different ways the City could grow and develop, known as growth alternatives. The City of Spokane Draft Environmental Impact Statement went out for public comment on December 18, 2025. Over 200 public comments were received by the deadline of February 18, 2026. The City, following a request for extension of time, then extended the comment period an additional 15 days to end on March 5, 2026, at 5 p.m.

To support the public in making their comments, community outreach occurred that focused on providing information on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and how to submit comments. The [PlanSpokane 2046 Draft EIS StoryMap](#) presented the technical analysis in a more accessible format. A [virtual Lunch and Learn](#) occurred on January 13, 2026, providing information on the PlanSpokane 2046 process and key details about the growth alternatives analyzed. Finally, a series of [PlanSpokane Listening Hours](#) were held, with Planning staff out in the community to answer question about and discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

All materials for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement are available on the project page: <https://my.spokanecity.org/planspokane/draft-eis/>

Comment Summary

In total, the City of Spokane received 203 written emails and 2 written comment cards during the public comment period, with some commenters submitting more than one written statement.

- 11 Agency and Tribal Governments Comments:
 - Coeur d’Alene Tribe

- Washington State Department of Transportation (2 written emails)
- Spokane County
- Spokane Transit Authority
- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- City of Spokane Department of Integrated Capital Management (2 written emails)
- City of Spokane & Spokane County Historic Preservation Commission (2 written comments)
- 4 Neighborhood Councils and Community Assembly Comments:
 - Community Assembly (2 written emails)
 - Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council
 - Grandview-Thorpe Neighborhood Council
- 10 Institutional/Organizational Comments:
 - Rockwood Retirement Communities
 - 350 Spokane Interfaith Committee (2 written emails)
 - Spokane Regional Transportation Council
 - Visit Spokane
 - Futurewise
 - Spokane River Keepers
 - Friends of Spokane Trees
 - Spokane Falls Community College Environmental Club
 - Downtown Spokane Partnership
- 180 Individuals

Common Themes

Below is a thematic summary of the public comments. Please note that this is a high-level summary and a full comment analysis and response to comments will be published in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

- Preference for Alternative 3, 2, or a combination of Alternatives 3 & 2
- General support for some elements of Alternative 2, Alternative 3, or both
- Potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures
- Protection and preservation of natural and historic resources
- Public transportation and infrastructure capacity
- Potential neighborhood impacts
- Affordable housing units
- Potential obstacles to local businesses and development due to rising costs, regulatory barriers

What's Next

The City of Spokane will consider all the timely comments received during the public comment period and will be responding to the substantive comments in writing. This will be published in an

appendix in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Following SEPA guidance, which regulates the Environmental Impact Statement process, possible responses that will be considered include:

- Explain how the alternatives, including the proposed action, were modified;
- Explain how the analysis was supplemented, improved, or modified;
- Make factual corrections; or
- Explain why the comment does not warrant further response

The public comments will help inform the development of the preferred alternative, along with the full public engagement to this date and the environmental review within the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The preferred alternative may be composed of some combination of the three different alternatives, based on feedback. Ultimately, the preferred alternative will shape the final Comprehensive Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement as the preferred direction for future growth and investment in the City of Spokane.