



2019/2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendments

## **PLAN COMMISSION FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT Z20-019COMP**

**A Recommendation of the Spokane Plan Commission to the City Council to APPROVE the Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposal seeking to amend Map TR5 of the Comprehensive Plan in Chapter 4: Transportation, and related text amendments to the City of Spokane Bicycle Master Plan, located in Appendix D of the Comprehensive Plan.**

### **FINDINGS OF FACT:**

- A. The City of Spokane adopted a Comprehensive Plan in May of 2001 that complies with the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA).
- B. Under GMA, comprehensive plans generally may be amended no more frequently than once a year, and all amendment proposals must be considered concurrently in order to evaluate for their cumulative effect.
- C. Amendment proposal Z20-019COMP (the “Proposal”) was submitted in a timely manner for review during the City’s 2019/2020 amendment cycle.
- D. The Proposal seeks to amend Map TR5 of the Comprehensive Plan to update facility type designations for thirteen segments of the City’s planned bicycle network to reflect updates in transportation patterns, land use and development patterns and design standards as well as related text amendments seek to update bikeway facility type descriptions in the City of Spokane Bicycle Master Plan, located in Appendix D of the Comprehensive Plan.
- E. Included in the proposed amendments is a change to the bicycle facility designation for the bike route segment on Boone Avenue between Howard Street and Atlantic Street, on Atlantic Street between Boone Avenue and Sharp Avenue, and on Sharp Avenue between Atlantic Street and Division Street in conformance with City Council Resolution 2019-0098.
  1. The potential traffic impacts that might occur from the installation of bike facilities on Boone Avenue were addressed in a traffic analysis memo prepared by the Integrated Capital Management department.
- F. Annual amendment proposals are subject to a threshold review process to determine whether the proposals will be included in the City’s Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program.
- G. On March 2, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution RES 2020-0014 establishing the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program, and including the Proposal in the Work Program.

- H. Thereafter, on April 24, 2020, staff requested comments from agencies, departments, and neighborhood councils. The City received comments stating no concerns and one requesting an adjustment to the future facility identification for Garland Avenue to be consistent with the City of Spokane's Six-Year Streets Plan and a modification to related text in the Bicycle Master Plan, located in Appendix D of the Comprehensive Plan
- I. On June 9, 2020, staff reissued the request for comments from agencies, departments, and neighborhood councils with the adjustment of Modification 2 for W Strong Rd to extend east to N Austin Road, and with the addition of text amendments related to the proposed facility designation adjustments.
- J. A Notice of Application was published on June 8, 2020 by posting it in the Spokesman Review. The Notice of Application initiated a 60-day public comment period from June 8 to August 7, 2020, during which the City received comments that included support for the proposed amendments, requests for reconsideration of specific proposals, requests for additional changes and minor adjustments to the proposals, and requests that would be appropriate for consideration in future Comprehensive Plan amendments.
- K. On June 4, 2020, the Community Assembly received a presentation regarding the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program and the Proposal, and was provided with information regarding the dates of Plan Commission workshops and hearings.
- L. On June 10, 2020, the Spokane City Plan Commission held a workshop to study the Proposal.
- M. On June 16, 2020, the Bicycle Advisory Board received a presentation regarding the Proposal.
- N. On June 23, 2020, the Pedestrian Transportation and Traffic Committee of the Community Assembly received a presentation regarding the Proposal.
- O. On June 24, 2020, the Land Use Subcommittee of the Community Assembly received a presentation regarding the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program, including the Proposal.
- P. On July 7, 2020, the Plan Commission Transportation Subcommittee received a presentation regarding the Proposal.
- Q. On July 30, 2020, an online public workshop specific to the bicycle- and transportation-related amendments was provided for the general public to answer questions and receive comments on the proposed amendments.
- R. On August 24, 2020, a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist and Determination of Non-Significance were issued for the Proposal. The deadline to appeal the SEPA determination was September 14, 2020. No comments on the SEPA determination were received.
  - 1. Notice of the SEPA Determination for the application was published in the Official Gazette on September 2 and 9, 2020.
- S. On August 25, 2020, the Washington State Department of Commerce and appropriate state agencies were given the required 60-day notice of intent to adopt before adoption of any proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan.

- T. On August 26 and September 2, 2020, notice was published in the Spokesman Review providing notice of a SEPA Determination of Non-Significance and notice of the September 9, 2020 Plan Commission Public Hearing.
- U. On August 24, 2020 staff published a report addressing SEPA and providing staff's analysis of the merits of the Proposal, copies of which were circulated as prescribed by SMC 17G.020.060B.8. Staff's analysis of the Proposal recommended approval of the Proposal.
- V. On September 9, 2020, the Plan Commission held a public hearing on the Proposal, including the taking of verbal testimony, and closed the public record, postponing deliberations until the following hearing date.
- W. All comments received prior to the close of the public record were forwarded to the Plan Commission by City staff.
- X. Members of the public testified both in opposition and in support of certain proposed future bikeway designation updates.
- Y. As a result of the City's efforts, pursuant to the requirements of SMC 17G.020.070, the public has had extensive opportunities to participate throughout the process and persons desiring to comment were given an opportunity to do so.
- Z. Except as otherwise indicated herein, the Plan Commission adopts the findings and analysis set forth in the Staff Report prepared for the Proposal (the "Staff Report").
- AA. The Plan Commission finds that the Proposal meets the intent and requirements of the Comprehensive Plan.
- BB. The Plan Commission finds that the Proposal meets the decision criteria established by SMC 17G.020.030, as described in the Staff Report.
- CC. The Plan Commission notes that design considerations of the eventual implementation of improvements to Boone Ave (shown as Modification 10 in the maps of the Staff Report) should consider and reduce any traffic or safety impacts arising on that road as they relate to special events at the Arena or Podium facilities, perhaps through the use of electronic signage or a modular design that can be changed during events to accommodate greater vehicle loads.

## **CONCLUSIONS:**

Based upon the Proposal materials, staff analysis (which is hereby incorporated into these findings, conclusions, and recommendation), SEPA review, agency and public comments received, and public testimony presented regarding Proposal File No. Z20-019COMP, the Plan Commission makes the following conclusions with respect to the review criteria outlined in SMC 17G.020.030:

1. The Proposal was submitted in a timely manner and added to the 2020 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program, and the final review Proposal was submitted as provided in SMC 17G.020.050(D).

2. Interested agencies and the public have had extensive opportunities to participate throughout the process and persons desiring to comment have been given that opportunity to comment.
3. The Proposal is consistent with the goals and purposes of GMA.
4. Any potential infrastructure implications associated with the Proposal will either be mitigated through projects reflected in the City's relevant six-year capital improvement plans or through enforcement of the City's development regulations at time of development.
5. As outlined in above in the Findings of Fact, the Proposal is internally consistent as it pertains to the Comprehensive Plan, as described in SMC 17G.020.030.E.
6. The Proposal is consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies for Spokane County, the comprehensive plans of neighboring jurisdictions, applicable capital facilities plans, the regional transportation plan, and official population growth forecasts.
7. The Proposal has been considered simultaneously with the other proposals included in the 2020 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program in order to evaluate the cumulative effect of all the proposals.
8. SEPA review was completed for the Proposal.
9. The Proposal will not adversely affect the City's ability to provide the full range of urban public facilities and services citywide at the planned level of service, or consume public resources otherwise needed to support comprehensive plan implementation strategies.
10. The Proposal proposes a map amendment that is in conformance with the appropriate location criteria identified in the comprehensive plan (e.g., compatibility with neighboring land uses, proximity to arterials, etc.).
11. The proposed map amendment is suitable for the proposed designation.
12. The map amendment would implement applicable comprehensive plan policies better than the current map designation.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

In the matter of Z20-019COMP, a request by City of Spokane staff to amend Map TR5 in Chapter 4: Transportation of the Comprehensive Plan to update selected future bikeway designations within the planned citywide bicycle network as well as corresponding text amendments within the City of Spokane Bicycle Master Plan, located in Appendix D of the Comprehensive Plan, as based upon the above listed findings and conclusions, by a vote of **8 to 0**, the Spokane Plan Commission recommends City Council **APPROVE** the requested amendment to the Map TR5 in Chapter 4: Transportation of the City's Comprehensive Plan and related text amendments within the City's Bicycle Master Plan, and authorizes the President to prepare and sign on the Commission's behalf a written decision setting forth the Commission's findings, conclusions, and recommendation on the Proposal.



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**Todd Beyreuther, President**

Spokane Plan Commission

October 21, 2020