



**PLAN COMMISSION FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS, AND
RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT
Z20-045COMP**

A Recommendation of the Spokane Plan Commission to the City Council to APPROVE the Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposal seeking to amend the text of Chapter 4, Transportation, to describe safety for at-grade railroad crossings and to describe certain locations where improvements may be necessary.

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 Z20-045COMP (the "Proposal") was submitted in a timely manner for review during the City's 2019/2020 amendment cycle.
- D. The Proposal seeks to amend the text of Chapter 4, Transportation, of the Comprehensive Plan to include discussion of safety for at-grade railroad crossings and to describe certain locations where improvements may be necessary.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. Thereafter, on April 24, 2020, staff requested comments from agencies, departments, and neighborhood councils. Comments were received from the Spokane Tribe indicating no significant concerns.
- H. A Notice of Application was published on June 8, 2020 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 did not receive any comments on the Proposal from the public.
- I. 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.
- J. On June 10, 2020, the Spokane City Plan Commission held a workshop to study the Proposal.

- K. On June 23, 2020, the Pedestrian Transportation and Traffic Committee of the Community Assembly received a presentation regarding the Proposal.
- L. 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.
- M. On July 21, 2020, the Plan Commission Transportation Subcommittee received a presentation regarding the Proposal.
- N. 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.
- O. 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 Proposal was published in the Official Gazette on September 2 and 9, 2020.
- P. 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.
- Q. 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.
- R. 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.
- S. On September 23, 2020, the Plan Commission held a public hearing on the Proposal, including the taking of verbal testimony, and closed the public record. No members of the public testified at the hearing.
- T. 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.
- U. 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").
- V. The Plan Commission finds that the Proposal meets the intent and requirements of the Comprehensive Plan.
- W. The Plan Commission finds that the Proposal meets the decision criteria established by SMC 17G.020.030, as described in the Staff Report.

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. Z20-045COMP, 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 text amendment that is in conformance with the comprehensive plan.
11. The proposed amendment provides for additional guidance pursuant to the community's original vision.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In the matter of Z20-045COMP, a request by City of Spokane staff to amend the text of Chapter 4, Transportation, of the Comprehensive Plan, as based upon the above listed findings and conclusions, by a vote of **9 to 0**, the Spokane Plan Commission recommends City Council **APPROVE** the requested amendment to Chapter 4, Transportation 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.



Todd Beyreuther, President

Spokane Plan Commission

October 21, 2020