

Summary of Amendment to Characteristics of Downtown Complete Street Designations (SMC 17C.124.035)

Purpose:

Amend Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) 17C.124.035 Characteristics of Downtown Complete Street Designations to provide flexibility to City Council to vacate right-of-ways designated as a Complete Street if for a public purpose.

Draft Text of Amended SMC 17C.124.035 Characteristics of Downtown Complete Street Designations (in bold):

[Title 17C](#) Land Use Standards

[Chapter 17C.124](#) Downtown Zones

[Section 17C.124.035](#) Characteristics of Downtown Complete Street Designations

The downtown zones are complemented by the complete streets designations map (described in detail in the downtown plan) that further guides public and private development within the downtown. The different complete streets designations set different street standards and desired amenities based upon the intended use and desired qualities of the street. The complete streets designations are depicted on Map 5.1 “Streetscape Improvements” in the downtown plan and zoning layer. Right-of-ways found on the complete streets map shall not be vacated as the space is needed to incorporate the elements described in the complete street designation; **provided, upon a finding that a vacation is needed in order to accommodate a public use, the City Council may approve a request to vacate such right-of-ways or portions thereof.** Curb to property line and the sidewalk width shall not be reduced in order to allow for future complete street elements. The complete streets designation types are summarized below:

- A. Type I – Community Activity Street.
Type I streets are slow, two-way streets with wide, well-maintained sidewalks and pedestrian amenities to encourage strolling, walking, and shopping.
- B. Type II – Community Connector.
Type II streets move traffic and pedestrians into and around downtown. These streets provide some of the major pedestrian connection to surrounding neighborhoods and districts.
- C. Type III – City-Regional Connector.
Type III streets move auto traffic through downtown and provide connections to the rest of the City and region. These attractive, landscaped arterials are to be improved with street trees, sufficient sidewalks for pedestrian circulation and pedestrian buffer areas, and safe pedestrian crossings.
- D. Type IV – Neighborhood Streets.
Type IV streets carry little through traffic and tend to have less commercial activity than the other types of complete streets. These tend to have generous sidewalks, landscaping, and street trees. All downtown streets will meet Type IV criteria to a minimum.
- E. Alleys.
Alleys provide the best opportunity to prioritize the pedestrian above the motor vehicle. Alleys are critical service areas where deliveries and refuse collection shall be focused. Alley encroachments shall be removable and allow for nightly access.