

BRIEFING PAPER
Skywalk Stair Removal
City of Spokane Planning & Development Department
May 19, 2014

Subject

Removal of the street access stairways connected to the existing skywalk over Main Avenue to the east of Howard Street. The stairs are located at the southeast corner of Main Avenue and Howard Street and at the northeast corner of Main Avenue and Howard Street. The skywalk connects the Parkade, the Bennett Block, and Macy's.

Purpose

The removal of physical and visual barriers is necessary to improve the pedestrian experience along Main Avenue. With the demolition of Cyrus O'Leary's encroachment and the proposal to remove Rocky Rococo's extension on the sidewalk, this additional barrier would open up the rest of the sidewalk to provide greater visibility to establishments along Main Avenue.

Background

Condition 1 of the easement granted for this skywalk by the Spokane City Council, easement C18290 (see attached), on November 18, 1965, states: "... the easement by this instrument granted shall include the right to build, construct and maintain the elevated walkways, skywalks, ramps, stairways and elevated pedestrian ways above noted shall be dedicated to the public use and shall be maintained through their life for public use."

To provide the same level of connectivity new interior stairs are currently being constructed within the Bennett Building to keep a street level pedestrian access point from Howard Street to the existing skywalk system. This meets the requirements of SMC 12.02.0474 with regards to Street Access.

Recommendation

The Spokane City Council is given the authority to approve modifications to skywalk approvals, as provided in SMC 12.02.0518.