

**CITY OF SPOKANE PLAN COMMISSION
FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING BICYCLE PARKING CODE UPDATE**

A recommendation of the City of Spokane Plan Commission to the City Council to approve amendments to the Spokane Municipal Code proposed by Bicycle Parking Code Update text amendments. The proposal amends the Unified Development Code (UDC) Section 17C.230.110, Minimum Required Parking Spaces, and 17C.230.200, Bicycle Parking.

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) as set forth in RCW 36.70A, including a transportation element meeting the requirements of RCW 36.70A.070(6).
- B. The 2017 periodic update to the Comprehensive Plan included an update to the Bicycle Master Plan, as an appendix to Chapter 4 – Transportation, establishing various goals and policies including “Provide convenient and secure short-term and long-term bike parking to connect people to popular destinations and transit throughout Spokane and encourage employers to provide shower and locker facilities.”
- C. The Bicycle Master Plan includes the goal of tripling the bicycle commute mode share with a further stated goal of increasing the commute mode share to five percent over a twenty-year period.
- D. The Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals released *Bicycle Parking Guidelines 2nd Edition* which is an industry-standard guidance document for updating municipal code related to bicycle parking and includes bicycle parking rates for reaching a five percent commute mode share.
- E. Outreach and public communication began in December 2022 and included the following among others:
 - 1. Presentations at the Urban Experience committee on December 12, 2022;
 - 2. Public Advisory Committee stakeholder meetings on January 9, 2023 and February 15, 2023;
 - 3. Plan Commission Workshops on January 25, 2023, and February 22, 2023;
 - 4. Bicycle Advisory Board workshop on January 17, 2023;
 - 5. Plan Commission Transportation Subcommittee workshops on December 6, 2022, and February 7, 2023;
 - 6. Pedestrian Transportation and Traffic Committee presentation on February 28, 2023;
 - 7. A virtual open house on February 15, 2023;
 - 8. A Bike Parking Survey open from February 15, 2023, to March 15, 2023, where 260 responses were received.

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- F. Public comment, as well as agency and department comments, received prior to the March 22, 2023, Plan Commission public hearing were included in the staff report as Exhibits D and E.
- G. On January 25, 2023, and February 22, 2023, the Spokane Plan Commission held workshops to discuss draft language, receive updates on public feedback as well as city department and agency comments, and review and evaluate with city staff alternatives to proposed text changes.
- H. On February 06, 2023, the Washington State Department of Commerce and appropriate state agencies were given the required 60-day notice before adoption of proposed changes to the Unified Development Code pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106.
- I. On February 1, 2023, a notice of intent to adopt and request for SEPA agency comments was issued for the draft code pertaining to Minimum Required Parking Spaces and Bicycle Parking. The comment period ended on February 16, 2023. Two comments were received, one from the Spokane Tribe of Indians and the other from the City of Spokane Streets Department.
- J. A State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) Determination of Nonsignificance and Checklist were issued by Planning Services on March 2, 2023. The comment period ended on March 22, 2023. No comments were received.
- K. A legal notice of public hearing was published in the *Spokesman-Review* on March 8 and March 15, 2023.
- L. The proposed text amendments were drafted and reviewed consistent with the requirements of RCW 36.70A.370 to assure protection of private property rights.
- M. Amendments to Title 17 are subject to review and recommendation by the Plan Commission.
- N. The Plan Commission held a public hearing on March 22, 2023, to obtain public comments on the proposed amendments. At the March 22, 2023, Public Hearing verbal testimony was closed, and Plan Commission deferred deliberation to April 12, 2023. No further written comment was received between March 22, 2023, and April 12, 2023.
- O. During deliberations held on April 12, 2023, the Plan Commission discussed concern regarding the storage of e-bikes in dedicated long-term bicycle storage facilities with the presence of potentially combustible lithium-ion batteries that may have health and safety implications. Plan Commission asked for further investigation into the issue by appropriate City departments.
- P. During deliberations held on April 12, 2023, the Plan Commission discussed a motion to modify the proposed text concerning vehicle parking substitutions allowing required bicycle parking to count towards reducing minimum vehicle parking requirements, the motion passed with ten aye votes, zero nay votes, and zero Commissioner(s) abstaining.
- Q. During deliberations held on April 12, 2023, the Plan Commission discussed a motion to modify the proposed text concerning change of use to provide an exception to requiring

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additional bicycle parking where the change of use would cause a less than ten percent increase in bicycle parking, the motion passed with six aye votes, four nay votes, and zero Commissioner(s) abstaining.

- R. During deliberations held on April 12, 2023, the Plan Commission discussed a motion to modify the proposed text concerning residential in-unit long-term storage of bicycle parking to allow in-unit long-term bicycle parking to count towards the long-term bicycle parking requirements, the motion failed with five aye votes, five nay votes, and zero Commissioner(s) abstaining.
- S. Except as otherwise indicated in the above findings, the Spokane Plan Commission adopts the findings and analysis set forth in the staff report prepared for the proposal.
- T. The Spokane Plan Commission finds that the proposed text amendments meet the decision criteria established in SMC 17G.025.010(G).

CONCLUSIONS:

Based upon the draft text amendments, staff report and analysis (which is hereby incorporated into these findings, conclusions, and recommendations), SEPA review, agency and public comments received, and public testimony presented, the Spokane Plan Commission makes the following conclusions with respect to the text amendments to Minimum Required Parking Spaces, and Bicycle Parking:

1. The Plan Commission finds that the proposed amendments bear a substantial relation to the public health, safety, welfare, and protection of the environment pursuant to the requirements outlined in SMC 17G.025.010(G).
2. The proposed text amendments will implement the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan and the Bicycle Master Plan.
3. Interested agencies and the public have had extensive opportunities to participate throughout the process and persons desiring to comment were given an opportunity to comment.
4. SEPA review was completed for the proposal, and pursuant to SEPA, any adverse environmental impacts associated with the draft regulations will be mitigated by enforcement of the City's development regulations.
5. The Plan Commission finds that the proposed amendments are consistent with the applicable provisions of the Comprehensive Plan, particularly the following adopted Shaping Spokane goals and policies:
 - a. Chapter 3: Land Use - Goal 4 – Transportation, Policy LU 4.6 Transit-Supported Development
 - b. Chapter 4: Transportation - Goal TR B – Provide Transportation Choices
 - c. Chapter 4: Transportation - Goal TR C – Accommodate Access to Daily Needs and Priority Destinations
 - d. Chapter 4: Transportation - Goal TR F – Enhance Public Health and Safety
 - e. Chapter 4: Transportation – Policy TR 1 – Transportation Network for All Users
 - f. Chapter 4: Transportation - Policy TR 5 – Active Transportation
 - g. Chapter 4: Transportation - Policy TR 6 – Commercial Center Access
 - h. Chapter 4: Transportation – Policy TR 9 – Promote Economic Opportunity
 - i. Chapter 4: Transportation - Policy TR 20 – Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordination
 - j. Bicycle Master Plan Policy BMP 1: Continually increase the bicycle mode share for all trips
 - k. Bicycle Master Plan Policy BMP 3: Provide convenient and secure short-term and long-term bike parking to connect people to popular destinations and transit throughout Spokane and encourage employers to provide shower and locker facilities

RECOMMENDATION:

In the matter of the ordinances pertaining to Minimum Required Parking Spaces, and Bicycle Parking, amending the Unified Development Code of the City of Spokane;

As based on the above listed findings and conclusions, the Spokane Plan Commission takes the following actions:

1. By a vote of ten to zero, recommends to the Spokane City Council the **APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATION** of the proposed amendments to Section 17C.230.110, Minimum Required Parking Spaces.

Amend 17C.230.110(B)(3), from the draft text for vehicle parking substitutions to allow for required bicycle parking to count towards the substitution of minimum required vehicle parking.

2. By a vote of ten to zero, recommends to the Spokane City Council the **APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATION** of the proposed amendments to Chapter 17C.230.200, Bicycle Parking, as amended during the deliberations to include the following modification:

Amend 17C.230.200(B)(3)(a), Change of Use, from the draft text for bicycle parking to reflect that if a change in use results in a less than ten percent increase in the number of required bicycle parking spaces, the development is not required to implement more bicycle parking.

3. Authorizes the President to prepare and sign on the Commission's behalf a written decision setting forth the Plan Commission's findings, conclusions, and recommendations on the proposed amendments.

Greg Francis

Greg Francis (Apr 17, 2023 10:38 PDT)

Greg Francis, President
Spokane Plan Commission

Apr 17, 2023

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Final Audit Report

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