



CITY PLAN COMMISSION
808 W. SPOKANE FALLS BLVD.
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201-3329
(509) 625-6060
FAX (509) 625-6013

April 22, 2009

City Council President Joe Shogan and City Council Members
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201-3329

RE: Proposed Master Bike Plan

Dear City Council President Joe Shogan and City Council Members:

During the 2006 Comprehensive Plan Update, the City Council amended the Transportation Chapter (Chapter 4) of the Comprehensive Plan to read as follows: "Future planning should include an integrated Master Bike Plan that defines the goals and design elements for bicycling facilities in the City." As a follow-up to this amendment, in the summer of 2007, Spokane's Planning Services Department began the work to create the Master Bike Plan.

As a part of the Master Bike Plan process, the Planning Services Department followed the requirements of the Growth Management Act related to early, continuous, and informed participation of citizens in planning processes (Growth Management Act (GMA) (RCW 36.70A.020, .035 and .140). The public planning process for the Master Bike Plan spanned more than 15 months and included numerous open houses, listening posts and other opportunities to comment.

The Plan Commission recommends that the Master Bike Plan be adopted as an emergency amendment to the Comprehensive Plan as provided in the Spokane Municipal Code. The criteria for an emergency amendment established by Spokane Municipal Code Section 17G.020.010 require a demonstration of community-wide significance. The proposed Master Bike Plan meets this criterion because it addresses bicycling improvements throughout the City.

The second criterion for an emergency amendment is to address the absence of adequate and available public facilities or services. Presently, the City of Spokane bikeway network lacks connectivity and is not adequate in terms of providing available facilities that will encourage increased bicycling. The Bike Master Plan will serve as a guide to the actions of various local agencies to make improvements. In addition, the adoption of this plan as an emergency amendment will ensure that Spokane is considered for potential federal or other funds allocated for bicycle improvements when the next opportunity becomes available. The City should adopt this bicycle plan prior to the 2009 construction season to ensure that no opportunities to erect bicycle facilities are missed.

The Plan Commission held a public hearing regarding the attached Master Bike Plan and related documents on January 28, 2009. Public oral comments on the Master Bike Plan were heard and written comments were allowed until February 6, 2009. Deliberations continued and the findings and conclusions were approved on April 22, 2009. The Plan Commission voted 6-0 to recommend moving the Draft Master Bike Plan Comprehensive Plan Update to City Council.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Ekins
President, City Plan Commission

Attachments: Plan Commission findings and conclusions
Master Bike Plan Ordinance
Bikeway Network Facility Map