



Agenda Sheet for City Council Meeting of:
07/13/2015

Date Rec'd	6/30/2015
Clerk's File #	ORD C35280
Renews #	
Cross Ref #	
Project #	
Bid #	
Requisition #	

Submitting Dept	PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
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Agenda Item Type	First Reading Ordinance
Agenda Item Name	0650 - ORDINANCE FOR CENTERS AND CORRIDORS

Agenda Wording

Ordinance relating to design standards and guidelines and minimum parking and site planting standards for sites located in Center and Corridor Zones; amending Spokane Municipal Code Sections 17C.122.060, 17C.230.120, 17G.040.020, and 17C.200.040.

Summary (Background)

Council Member Amber Waldref, in collaboration with members of the community, began working on revisions to the Initial Design Standards and Guidelines for Centers and Corridors in late 2014. The Plan Commission has held four workshops in 2015 and a public hearing on June 10, 2015 on this item. The goal is to encourage quality projects in the City's targeted center and corridor zones.

Fiscal Impact

Neutral	\$
Select	\$
Select	\$
Select	\$

Budget Account

#
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Approvals

Dept Head	WRIGHT, JO ANNE
Division Director	SIMMONS, SCOTT M.
Finance	SALSTROM, JOHN
Legal	RICHMAN, JAMES
For the Mayor	SANDERS, THERESA

Council Notifications

Study Session	
Other	CC Study Session 6/22/15

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FIRST READING OF THE ABOVE ORDINANCE
WAS HELD ON

AND FURTHER ACTION WAS DEFERRED

7/13/2015
Sen Koste
CITY CLERK

PASSED BY
SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL:

7/20/2015
Sen Koste
CITY CLERK

ORDINANCE NO. C35280

AN ORDINANCE relating to design standards and guidelines, and minimum parking and site planting standards, for sites located in Center and Corridor Zones; amending Spokane Municipal Code Sections 17C.122.060, 17C.230.120, 17G.040.020, and 17C.200.040.

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission recently considered a proposal to amend the City's design standards and guidelines, including minimum parking and site planting standards, for sites located in center and corridor zones, and to amend SMC 17G.040.020 relating to development applications subject to design review; and

WHEREAS, following appropriate environmental determinations and notice, the City Plan Commission held a public hearing on the proposal on June 10, 2015;

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the hearing, the Plan Commission found that the proposed amendments meet the approval criteria for text amendments to the Unified Development Code as outlined by SMC 17C.025.010(F), and voted 8 to 0 in favor of recommending that the City Council approve the amendments;

WHEREAS, the City Council adopts the recitals set forth herein as its findings and conclusions in support of its adoption of this ordinance and further adopts the Spokane City Plan Commission Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Recommendations, Proposed Amendment to Centers & Corridors Design Guidelines, Spokane Municipal Code Section 17C.122.060 Initial Design Standards and Guidelines for Centers and Corridors, dated June 10, 2015;--

Now, Therefore, The City of Spokane does ordain:

Section 1. That SMC section 17C.122.060 is amended to read as follows:

17C.122.060 ((Initial)) Design Standards and Guidelines for Centers and Corridors

The document titled "((Initial)) Design Standards and Guidelines for Centers and Corridors" is adopted by reference as a part of the ((initial)) land use code for centers and corridors and incorporated as Attachment "A" to the ((initial)) land use code for centers and corridors. All projects must address these standards and guidelines. The applicant assumes the burden of proof to demonstrate how a proposed design addresses these standards and guidelines. ~~((A determination of consistency with the standards and guidelines will be made by the planning director following an administrative design review process.))~~ For design standards and guidelines in "Attachment A" that are designated Requirement (R), an applicant may apply to the Design Review Board pursuant to the procedures set forth in chapter 17G.040 SMC, and the board may recommend approval of alternatives to strict compliance, upon a finding that the alternative satisfies the decision criteria for a design departure in SMC 17G.030.040.

The design standards and guidelines for all centers and corridors are also applicable to the sites located in the Type 4 mixed use transition zone. In addition, the design standards and guidelines for Type 1 centers and corridors are also applicable to the sites located in the Type 4 mixed use transition zone.

Section 2. That Attachment "A" to the land use code for centers and corridors, as referenced in SMC 17C.122.060, is amended as set forth in Exhibit "A" to this Ordinance.

Section 3. That SMC 17C.230.120 is amended as follows:

17C.230.120 Maximum Allowed Parking Spaces

A. Purpose.

Limiting the number of spaces allowed promotes efficient use of land, enhances urban form, encourages use of alternative modes of transportation, provides for better pedestrian movement, and protects air and water quality. The maximum ratios in this section vary with the use the parking is accessory to. These maximums will accommodate most auto trips to a site based on typical peak parking demand for each use.

B. Maximum Number of Parking Spaces Allowed.

Standards in a plan district or overlay zone may supersede the standards in this subsection.

1. Surface Parking.

The maximum number of parking spaces allowed is stated in Table 17C.230-1 and Table 17C.230-2, except as specified in subsection (B)(2) of this section.

2. Structure Parking.

Parking provided within a building or parking structure is not counted when calculating the maximum parking allowed

TABLE 17C.230-1 PARKING SPACES BY ZONE [1] (Refer to Table 17C.230-2 for Parking Spaces Standards by Use)		
ZONE	SPECIFIC USES	REQUIREMENT
RA, RSF, RTF, RMF, RHD	All Land Uses	Minimum and maximum standards are shown in Table 17C.230-2.
O, OR, NR, NMU, CB, GC, Industrial		
CC1, CC2, CC3 [2]	Nonresidential	Minimum ratio is 1 stall per 1,000 gross square feet of floor area. Maximum ratio is 4 stalls per 1,000 gross square feet of floor area.
	Residential	Minimum ratio is 1 stall per 1,000 gross square feet of floor area or a minimum of 1 stall per dwelling unit <u>plus one per bedroom after 3 bedrooms.</u> ((,whichever is less.))

		Maximum ratio is the same as for nonresidential uses.
CC4 [2]	Nonresidential	Minimum ratio is 2 stalls per 1,000 gross square feet of floor area. Maximum ratio is 4 stalls per 1,000 gross square feet of floor area.
	Residential	Minimum ratio is 1 stall per 1,000 gross square feet of floor area or a minimum of 1 stall per dwelling unit, whichever is less. Maximum ratio is the same as for nonresidential uses.
Downtown [2]	All Land Uses	See the Downtown Parking Requirement Map 17C.230-M1 to determine if parking is required. Minimum ratio for areas shown on the map that require parking is 1 stall per 1,000 gross square feet of floor area or a minimum of 1 stall per dwelling unit, whichever is less. Maximum ratio is 3 stalls per 1,000 gross square feet of floor area.
FBC [2]	All Land Uses	See SMC 17C.123.040, Hamilton Form Based Code for off-street parking requirements.
Overlay	All Land Uses	No off-street parking is required. See the No Off-Street Parking Required Overlay Zone Map 17C.230-M2 and No Off-Street Parking Required Overlay Zone Map 17C.230-M3.
[1] Standards in a plan district or overlay zone may supersede the standards of this table.		
[2] See exceptions in SMC 17C.230.130, CC and Downtown Zone Parking Exceptions.		

Section 4. That SMC 17G.040.020 is amended as follows:

17G.040.020 Development and Applications Subject to Design Review

Development Applications Subject to Design Review.

The board shall review the design elements of the following developments and/or project permit applications:

- A. All public projects or structures.
- B. Shoreline conditional use permit applications.
- C. Skywalk applications over a public right-of-way.
- D. Projects seeking a design departure per chapter 17G.030 SMC, Design Departures, SMC 17G.030.030, Review Process.
- E. Within downtown zones:
 - 1. Within the central area identified on the Downtown Design Review Threshold Map 17G.040-M1:

- a. New buildings and structures greater than twenty-five thousand square feet.
 - b. Modification of more than twenty-five percent (at minimum three hundred square feet) of a building façade visible from an adjacent street.
- 2. Within the perimeter area identified on the Downtown Design Review Threshold Map 17G.040-M1:
 - a. New buildings and structures greater than fifty thousand square feet.
 - b. Modification of more than twenty-five percent (at minimum three hundred square feet) of a building façade visible from an adjacent street.
- 3. Within the gateway areas identified on the Downtown Design Review Threshold Map 17G.040-M1:
 - a. All new buildings and structures.
 - b. Modification of more than twenty-five percent (at minimum three hundred square feet) of a building façade fronting on a designated gateway street or within one hundred feet of an intersection with a gateway street.
- 4. Sidewalk encroachment by private use.
- F. Within Centers & Corridors zones, application for Design Departures from the Design Standards and Guidelines for Centers and Corridors.
- G. F.. Any other development proposal or planning study about which the plan commission, planning director, or hearing examiner requests to have the board's advice pertaining to any design elements.
- H. G. Other developments or projects listed within the Unified Development Code that require design review.

Section 5. That SMC 17C.200.040 is amended as follows:

17C.200.040 Site Planting Standards

Sites shall be planted in accordance with the following standards:

- A. Street Frontages.
 - 1. The type of plantings as specified below shall be provided inside the property lines:
 - a. along all commercial, light industrial, and planned industrial zoned properties except where buildings are built with no setback from the property line: a six-foot wide planting area of L2 see-through buffer, including street trees as prescribed in SMC 17C.200.050. Remaining setback areas shall be planted in L3.

- b. along all downtown, CC1, CC2, and CC4 zoned properties except where buildings are built with no setback from the property line: a five-foot wide planting area of L2 see-through buffer, including street trees as prescribed in SMC 17C.200.050, Street Tree Requirements. Remaining setback areas shall be planted in L3. Living ground cover shall be used, with non-living materials (gravel, river rock, etc.) as accent only. In addition, earthen berms, trellises, low decorative masonry walls, or raised masonry planters (overall height including any plantings shall not exceed three feet) may be used to screen parking lots from adjacent streets and walkways.
 - c. in the heavy industrial zone, along a parking lot, outdoor sales, or
 - d. outdoor display area that is across from a residential zone: a six-foot wide planting area of L2 see-through buffer, including street trees as prescribed in SMC 17C.200.050. Remaining setback areas shall be planted in L3.
 - e. in industrial zones, all uses in the commercial categories (see chapter 17C.190 SMC, Use Category Descriptions, Article III, Commercial Categories) are subject to the standards for uses in the general commercial (GC) zone.
 - f. along all RA, RSF, RTF, RMF, and RHD zones, except for single-family residences and duplexes: six feet of L3 open area landscaping, including street trees as prescribed in SMC 17C.200.050. For residential development along principal and minor arterials, a six-foot high fence with shrubs and trees may be used for screening along street frontages. The fence and landscaping shall comply with the standards of SMC 17C.120.310 for the clear view triangle and must be placed no closer than twelve feet from the curb line. A minimum of fifty percent of the fence line shall include shrubs and trees. The landscaping is required to be placed on the exterior (street side) of the fence.
2. Except for attached and detached single-family residences and duplexes, plantings may not exceed thirty-six inches in height or hang lower than ninety-six inches within the clear view triangle at street intersections on corner lots and at driveway entries to public streets. The clear view triangle is defined in SMC 17C.120.310. The director of engineering services may further limit the height of plantings, landscaping structures, and other site development features within the clear view triangle or may expand the size of the clear view triangle as conditions warrant.



B. Other Property Perimeters.

A planting strip of five feet in width shall be provided along all other property lines except where buildings are built with no setback from the property line or where a parking lot adjoins another parking lot. In CC zoned subject properties, the planting strip shall be eight feet in width to enhance the screening between CC and Residential zoned properties. The type of planting in this strip varies depending upon the zone designation of the properties sharing the property line (with or without an intervening alley) as indicated in the matrix below. Where properties with dissimilar zones share a common boundary, the property with the more intense zone shall determine the required type of planting and the planting width. The owners of adjacent properties may agree to consolidate their perimeter plantings along shared boundaries. Therefore, instead of each property providing a five-foot wide planting strip, they together could provide one five-foot wide planting strip, so long as the required planting type, as indicated in the matrix, is provided. Types of landscaping to be provided in planting strips alongside and rear property lines:

SUBJECT PROPERTY ZONE (vertical)	ADJACENT PROPERTY ZONE (horizontal)												
	RA	RSF	RTF	RMF	RHD	O, OR	NR, NMU	CB	GC	CC	LI, PI	HI	DT
RA	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
RSF	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
RTF	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
RMF	L2	L2	L2	L3	L2	L2	L2	L1	L1	L1	--	--	L1
RHD	L2	L2	L2	L2	L3	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	--	--	L2
O, OR	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	L3	L2	L2	L2	--	--	--	L2
NR, NMU	L2	L1	L2	L2	L2	L2	L3	L3	L2	--	--	--	L3
CB	L1	L1	L1	L1	L2	L2	L3	L3	L3	--	--	--	L3
GC	L1	L1	L1	L1	L2	L2	L2	L3	L3	--	--	--	L3
CC	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
LI, PI [3]	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	L2	--	--	--	--	--	--
HI [3]	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	--	--	--	--	--	--
DT	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	L2	L2	L3	L3	--	--	--	--

Notes:

[1] In the industrial zones, all uses in the commercial categories (see chapter 17C.190 SMC, Use Category Descriptions, Article III, Commercial Categories) are subject to the standards for uses in the general commercial (GC) zone.

C. Planning Director Discretion.

The planning director shall have the discretion to waive or reduce the requirements of subsections (A)(1) and (B) of this section based on the following factors:

1. No useable space for landscaping exists between the proposed new structure and existing structures on adjoining lots or alleys because of inadequate sunlight or inadequate width.
2. The building setback provided in front of the new structure is less than six feet or is developed as a plaza with decorative paving/pavers, trees, planters, or other amenities.
3. Xeriscape landscaping is utilized in designated stormwater control areas.
4. When existing trees and other vegetation serves the same or similar function as the required landscaping, they may be substituted for the required landscaping if they are healthy and appropriate for the site at mature size. When existing trees are eight inches or more in diameter, they shall be equivalent to three required landscape trees. If necessary, supplemental landscaping shall be provided in areas where existing vegetation is utilized to accomplish the intent of this chapter.

D. Other Areas.

All other portions of a site not covered by structures, hard surfaces, or other prescribed landscaping shall be planted in L3 open area landscaping until the maximum landscape requirement threshold is reached (see SMC 17C.200.080).

E. Parking Lot Landscaping Design.

1. Purpose.

To reduce the visual impact of parking lots through landscaped areas, trellises, and/or other architectural features that complement the overall design and character of developments.



2. Parking Lot Landscaping Design Implementation.

This section is subject to the provisions of SMC 17C.120.015, Design Standards Administration.

3. The parking lot landscape shall reinforce pedestrian and vehicle circulation, especially parking lot entrances, ends of driving aisles, and pedestrian walkways leading through parking lots. (P)
4. Planted areas next to a pedestrian walkways and sidewalks shall be maintained or plant material chosen to maintain a clear zone between three and eight feet from ground level. (R)



5. Low walls and raised planters (a maximum height of three feet), trellises with vines, architectural features, or special interest landscape features shall be used to define entrances to parking areas. Where signs are placed on walls, they shall be integrated into the design and complement the architecture or character of other site features. (P)

6. Landscape plant material size, variety, color, and texture within parking lots should be integrated with the overall site landscape design. (C)

F. Parking, Outdoor Sales, and Outdoor Display Areas.

1. In residential, commercial and center and corridor zones, a six-foot wide planting area of L2 see-through buffer landscaping shall be provided between any parking lot, outdoor sales, outdoor display area, and a street right-of-way. Living ground cover shall be used, with non-living materials (gravel, river rock, etc.) as accent only. In addition, earthen berms, trellises, low decorative masonry walls, raised masonry planters, or L1 visual screen landscaping shall be used to screen parking lots from adjacent streets and walkways (overall height including any plantings or structures shall not exceed three feet). Trees required as a part of the L2 landscape strip shall be located according to the standards for street trees in SMC 17C.200.050, Street Tree Requirements.
2. In residential, commercial and center and corridor zones all parking stalls shall be within sixty feet of a planted area with L3 open area landscaping. All individual planting areas within parking lots shall be at least one hundred fifty square feet in size.
3. In residential, commercial and center and corridor zones all paved parking areas on a site with more than fifty cumulative parking spaces shall have plantings that satisfies one of the following options:
 - a. Option 1.
Interior landscaping consisting of L3 open area landscaping, including trees amounting to at least ten percent of the total area of the paved parking area, excluding required perimeter and street frontage strips. A minimum of one interior tree shall be planted for every six parking spaces.
 - b. Option 2.
Tree plantings shall be spaced in order that tree canopies cover a minimum of seventy percent of the entire paved area of the parking lot within fifteen years of project completion. Canopy coverage shall be measured in plan view, and be based on projected mature size of the selected tree species. All individual planting areas within parking lots shall be a minimum of eight feet in width, be at least one hundred fifty square feet in size, and in addition to the required trees, shall be planted with a living groundcover. See the "Landscape Plants for the Inland Northwest" issued by the Washington State University cooperative extension and the U.S. department of agriculture, available from the City planning services department, for acceptable mature tree size to be used when calculating canopy

size.

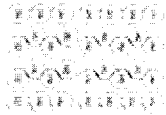
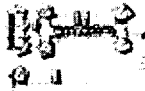


Figure 17C.190 SMC, Use Category Descriptions, Article III, Commercial Categories

4. Where parking lots are located between the building and a street, the amount of required interior landscaped area shall be increased by fifty percent and the minimum amount of tree shade cover shall increase to eighty percent. Where parking lots are behind buildings, the amount of interior landscaping may be decreased by fifty percent of what the code requires and the minimum amount of tree shade cover shall decrease to fifty percent.
5. A planting strip of five feet in depth with L1 visual screen landscaping or site-obscuring decorative wood, iron, etc. fences or masonry walls at least six feet in height shall be installed along property lines where any adjacent single-family residential zone would have views of parking or service areas.
6. A minimum of two-foot setback shall be provided for all trees and shrubs where vehicles overhang into planted areas.



7. In industrial zones, parking lots, outdoor sales, and outdoor display areas that are abutting or across the street from residential zones are subject to all of the requirements of subsections (E) and (F) of this section.
8. In industrial zones, all uses in the commercial categories (see chapter 17C.190 SMC, Use Category Descriptions, Article III, Commercial Categories) are subject to the standards for uses in the general commercial (GC) zones.
9. In downtown zones an applicant must demonstrate to the director that the following required elements meet the intent of the Downtown Design Guidelines. Key design elements for these features include integrating storm water facilities, improving the pedestrian environment, and adding public amenities next to surface parking; outdoor sales and outdoor display areas so that they help to define space and contribute to a more active street environment.
 - a. **Surface Parking Lot Liner Walls in the Downtown Zones.** Surface parking lots must have a solid, decorative concrete or masonry wall adjacent to a complete street and behind a sidewalk. The wall must have a minimum height above the surface of the parking lot of two and one-half feet and a maximum height of three feet. The wall shall screen automobile headlights from surrounding properties. A wrought iron fence may be constructed on top of the wall for a combined wall and fence height of six feet. An area with a minimum width of two

feet, measured from the property line, must be provided, landscaped and maintained on the exterior of the required wall. Such walls, fences, and landscaping shall not interfere with the clear view triangle. Pedestrian access through the perimeter wall shall be spaced to provide convenient access between the parking lot and the sidewalk. There shall be a pedestrian access break in the perimeter wall at least every one hundred fifty feet and a minimum of one for every street frontage. Any paving or repaving of a parking lot over one thousand square feet triggers these requirements.



Parking liner walls with plantings contribute to an interesting pedestrian environment. The parking liner wall and screen pictured above is enhanced by larger wall sections near automobile crossing points and a change in sidewalk scoring pattern. Both give cues to pedestrians and drivers.

- b. Surface parking lots in the Downtown zones are subject to the interior parking lot landscaping standard sections (F)(2) through (F)(6).
- c. The exterior boundary of all surface parking lots adjacent to any public right-of-way must include trees spaced no more than twenty-five feet apart. The leaves of the trees or any other landscaping features at maturity shall not obscure vision into the parking lot from a height of between three and eight feet from the ground. The species of trees shall be selected from the city's street tree list. If street trees exist or are provided consistent with SMC 17C.200.050 then this landscaping strip may be omitted.
- d. Outdoor sales and display areas shall contribute to an interesting streetscape by providing the following:
 - i. Monument Features or Artistic Elements along the Street Edge between the Outdoor Display Area and the Sidewalk.

These shall be integrated with display area lighting and pedestrian amenities.
 - ii. Additional Streetscape Features in the Sidewalk Environment.

Items may include elements that improve the health of street trees and plantings, improve storm water management, or artistic features that improve the pedestrian environment. This may include items such as permeable pavers in the pedestrian buffer strip, increased soil volumes for street trees, suspended sidewalks around the street tree to increase the amount of un-compacted soils, and engineered soils to support larger and healthier trees.

PASSED by the City Council on July 20, 2015

Ben Stuchel
Council President

Attest:

Leri Hedges
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Jared
Assistant City Attorney

David A. Cannon
Mayor

August 3, 2015
Date

September 2, 2015
Effective Date

