

SPOKANE ENVIRONMENTAL ORDINANCE

(WAC 197-11-960) Section 11.10.230(1)

Environmental Checklist

File No.____

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observation or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply."
IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (Part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. *Name of proposed project, if applicable:*

Spokane Convention Center Skywalk

2. *Name of Applicant:*

Spokane Public Facilities District
720 West Mallon Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201
Contact: Kevin J. Twohig, CEO
509-279-7000
ktwohig@spokanepfd.org

3. *Address and phone number of applicant or contact person:*

Architect/Builder:

Tim Graybeal
Integrus Architecture
10 South Cedar Street, Spokane, WA 99201
509-838-8681 - tgraybeal@integrusarch.com

Environmental Consultant:

Jim Kolva
Jim Kolva Associates
115 South Adams Street
Spokane, WA 99201
509-458-5517 - jim@kolva.comcastbiz.net

4. *Date checklist prepared:*

30 April 2014

5. *Agency requesting checklist:*

Spokane Public Facilities District (Lead Agency)

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The proposed project is planned for construction Fall to Winter of 2014.

7. a. *Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.*

None at this time

b. *Do you own or have options on land nearby or adjacent to this proposal? If yes, explain.*

No

8. *List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.*

Reports prepared for the proposed skywalk project and previously prepared reports for the Convention Center Expansion are included on the Spokane PFD Website (<http://www.spokanepfd.org/completion/documents.php>).

City of Spokane Pre-Development Conference Notes for Convention Center Hotel Skywalk– 10/10/2013.

City of Spokane Design Review Board Application. 2013.

9. *Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.*

None known at this time.

10. *List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known:*

Design Review Committee
Demolition
Street obstruction
Building
Street Use
Electrical
Plumbing/mechanical
Occupancy
SRCAA Notice of Construction and Application for Approval

Type III application, variance request, and hearing by Spokane Hearing Examiner with final approval by the City Council, including a Skywalk and Air Rights Use Agreement

11. *Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.*

Proposed Use and Project Objectives

The project is the construction of a skywalk over Spokane Falls Boulevard west of Bernard Street that will connect the Spokane Convention Center (east of the breezeway) and the proposed convention hotel in the South Block (bounded by Spokane Falls Boulevard, Washington Street, Bernard Street, and Main Avenue). The hotel and hotel site are not owned by the Spokane Public Facilities District (District), but the District owns 300 parking spaces within the parking garage. (See Spokane Public Facilities District website (<http://www.spokanepfd.org/completion/>)).

The objective of the project is to provide a climate-controlled, grade-separated pedestrian corridor between the new convention hotel, and the parking garage within the hotel, to the Spokane Convention Center and INB Performing Arts Center.

12. *Location of Proposal. Give sufficient information to a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit application related to this checklist.*

Address: 334 West Spokane Falls Boulevard
Parcel number: 35184.0001

The skywalk would bridge Spokane Falls Boulevard west of Bernard Street, connecting to the existing Spokane Convention West Building (Ag Trade Center) east of the breezeway and the new convention hotel near its northeast corner.

13. *Does the proposed action lie within the Aquifer Sensitive Area (ASA)? The General Sewer Service Area? The Priority Sewer Service Area? The City of Spokane? (See: Spokane county's ASA Overlay Zone Atlas for boundaries).*

The site is within all these areas.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. EARTH.

a. *General description of the site (circle one): flat, rolling, hilly, steep slope, mountainous, other:*

The site is flat, and consists of concrete sidewalks and asphalt street and access lane.

b. *What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?*

The site is essentially flat and level.

c. *What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)?*

Currently the site is covered with buildings at each end, asphalt driveway and street, and concrete walkways and slabs.

The underlying soils, according to the National Resource Conservation Service Web Soil Survey November 6, 2012), are Urban land-Opportunity, disturbed complex, 0-3 percent slopes. Because of the developed condition, the NRCS Web Soil Survey does not rate the physical and chemical characteristics of the soils of the site.

The site has historically been developed, originally by construction of mainline railroad beds, railroad spurs, warehouse buildings, and asphalt and concrete paving.

It is not expected that soil excavation will be required to complete the project.

d. *Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.*

No. The site is not in an area of geohazards as mapped by the city of Spokane.

e. *Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.*

It is not expected that fill will be imported to the site, nor is grading proposed.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No soil disturbance is expected; except with the removal of the existing marquee sign in front of the convention center could result in the immediate area of the support posts.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

With the exception of a narrow landscape strip, the entire area beneath the skywalk alignment is now and will remain covered by impervious surfaces (99 percent).

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

If any soil is disturbed, standard runoff control measures will be followed to minimize erosion during construction. Best Management Practices (BMP) will be used during construction. Adjacent properties will be protected from sediment deposition as well as increased volume, velocity and peak flow rates of stormwater runoff.

2. AIR

a. What type of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial, wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Emission sources would include saw cutting (dust) into the side of the existing Convention Center and removal of concrete and other materials necessary to prepare for the connection of the skywalk and internal circulation (stairs and elevator). Quantities generated have not been quantified but expected to be nominal.

Diesel and gasoline exhaust emissions from generators, automobiles, trucks, and lifting equipment will be generated during construction. Finally, application of coatings such as paints, wood finishes, and other weather coatings will generate emissions that may create short-term odors.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Spokane Falls Boulevard is a major arterial through downtown Spokane running between the existing Convention Center and the new convention hotel. This is an existing condition and has not, nor is expected to affect the operations of the Convention Center.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (SRCAA) regulations will be followed. It is not expected that asbestos or lead paint will be encountered during demolition and building preparation.

3. WATER

a. Surface:

(1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

The Spokane River is about 280 feet north of the site with the intervening Convention Center, concrete walkways, Centennial Trail, and terrace seating for the Floating Stage.

(2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No

(3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from the surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None

(4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities, if known.

No

(5) Does the proposal lie within 100-year flood plain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No, the skywalk site is within a Zone X, areas of minimal flooding. (FEMA MSC Viewer, reviewed 9/7/2012, Community Panel Number 53063C0541D, 7/6/2010. A 100-year flood plain is along the riverbank and intrudes slightly into the Centennial Trail (about 240 feet north of the site).

(6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No

b. Ground:

(1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities, if known.

No, City of Spokane provides domestic and irrigation supply.

(2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sanitary waste treatment facility. Describe the general site of the system, the number of houses to be served (if applicable) or the number of persons the system(s) are expected to serve.

N/A

(3) Describe any systems, other than those designed for the disposal of sanitary waste, installed for the purpose of discharging fluids below the ground surface (includes systems such as those for the disposal of storm water or drainage from floor drains). Describe the type of system, the amount of material to be disposed of through the system and the types of materials likely to be disposed of (including materials which may enter the system inadvertently through spills or as a result of fire fighting activities).

Drainage for the roof of the skywalk will be designed in accordance with City of Spokane stormwater management guidelines.

(4) Will any chemicals (especially organic solvents or petroleum fuels) be stored in above ground or underground storage tanks? If so, what type and quantities of materials will be stored?

No

(5) What protective measures will be taken to insure that leaks or spills of any chemicals stored or used on site will not be allowed to percolate to groundwater (this includes measures to keep chemicals out of disposal systems described in 3b(2) and 3b(3)?

N/A

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

(1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

The footprint or roof area would be approximately 1,600 square (14 feet wide x 112 feet long) square feet and would consist of rooftop. The area below skywalk footprint is currently concrete and asphalt paving. Thus no new impervious surface would be added; rooftop will replace asphalt.

The project civil engineers will design the management system to handle the stormwater runoff, peak rate and volume, in accordance with SMC 17D.060, Storm Water Facilities and other applicable city standards.

(2) Will any chemicals be stored, handled or used on the site in a location where a spill or leak will drain to surface or groundwater or to a storm water disposal system discharging to surface or groundwater?

No

(3) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

It is not expected that such materials would be used within the skywalk. Again, the surface below is asphalt and concrete and surface water is more than 200 feet north.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any (if the proposed action lies within the Aquifer Sensitive Area be especially clear on explanations relating to facilities concerning Sections 3b(4), 3b(5), and 3c(2) of this checklist):

All stormwater will be managed in accordance with a city-approved management plan prepared by the project design team.

4. PLANTS

a. *Check or circle type of vegetation found on the site:*

- ☐ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other.
- ☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other.
- ☒ shrubs.
- ☒ grass.
- ☐ pasture.
- ☐ crop or grain.
- ☐ wet soil plants, cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other.
- ☐ water plants water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other.
- ☐ other types of vegetation.

The skywalk will cross over a 6-foot wide strip of evergreen shrubs that separates Spokane Falls Boulevard and the Convention Center/INB drop off and loading lanes.

b. *What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?*

It is not expected that this evergreen landscape strip would be affected by the proposed skywalk.

Care should be taken during skywalk installation to avoid damage to the shrubs. If damaged, shrubs will be replaced.

c. *List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.*

None

d. *Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:*

No new landscaping is proposed.

5. ANIMALS

a. *Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:*

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

Sparrows, crows, starlings may pass through the site.

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

None

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

None

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

No, the area is a developed urban site.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

None

6. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Electrical energy power currently powers electrical equipment and lighting. Natural gas is currently used for heating on the campus. The heating/cooling system for the skywalk has not yet been determined.

Gasoline and diesel fuels would be used by construction vehicles during the completion of the skywalk project.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

The project would be built in accordance with the Washington State Energy Code. Interior lighting will conform to the Washington Non-Residential State Energy Code.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

None are expected.

(1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None

(2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.

None

b. Noise:

(1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project, for example: traffic, equipment, operation other?

In the northeast quadrant of downtown Spokane bounded on the east by the Division Street corridor and the south by Spokane Falls Boulevard, the noise environment of the Spokane Convention Center campus is influenced by sounds generated by vehicular traffic, specifically Spokane Falls Boulevard at the skywalk location. The environment is typical of an urban setting.

(2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)?

During demolition (and saw cutting) and building construction, noise would be generated by construction equipment such as trucks, front-end loaders, concrete pumps, a crane, compressors, etc. Construction using the same type of equipment is presently taking place along the south side of Spokane Falls Boulevard at the new convention hotel.

Over the life of the project, noise would continue to be generated by vehicular traffic along Spokane Falls Boulevard, Bernard and Washington streets. It is not expected that traffic or noise levels will increase as a result of the project.

Additionally, human activity on the site will generate noise of the same type, duration, and timeframes as at the existing convention center.

The use of power equipment for landscape and building maintenance, snow removal, site maintenance, etc. would also continue.

(3) Proposed measure to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

The city of Spokane regulates noise under Spokane Municipal Code Section 10.08D Noise Control. The ordinance establishes use districts and provides maximum permissible noise levels and durations within and between these districts.

Exemptions are provided in Washington State's WAC 173-60-050 for various categories of noise between the hours of 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM noise. These include sounds originating from temporary construction sites as a result of construction activity; and the operations of motor vehicles when regulated by chapter 173-62 WAC. (A complete listing is provided in WAC 173-060-050)

8. LAND AND SHORELINE USE

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The site of the proposed skywalk consists of concrete sidewalks, the Convention Center/INB access/loading driveway, a landscaped traffic divider, and Spokane Falls Boulevard. The Spokane Convention Center (West) and the new convention hotel currently under construction would be the receiving structures.

Surrounding land uses include:

South adjacent – the under-construction convention center hotel on the south side of Spokane Falls Boulevard. The hotel will occupy the entire block.

North – the existing Spokane Convention Center;

West adjacent – Convention Center and INB breezeway, INB Performing Arts Center extends to Washington Street;

East - the existing Spokane Convention Center, Bernard Street intersection, and across Bernard to the south is a parking lot and two-story Fruci commercial building, with 3-story Fruci Building and School District 81 Administration Building to its south. Further east along Spokane Falls Boulevard are Azteca Restaurant and the 20-story Park Tower apartments.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The site consists of concrete walkways and curbs, asphalt driveway and street, and 6-foot wide landscape strip which would be crossed by the elevated skywalk structure.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, which?

No

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The site is in the East End of Downtown Spokane with a zoning designation of Downtown General (DTG-100).

According to the zone description: "This is a high density, mixed-use area in which community-serving retail uses are encouraged, especially at street level; and residential and office uses are encouraged, especially as part of a mixed use building. A very wide range of uses are allowed. New auto-oriented or intensive industrial uses are discouraged or not allowed."

The site is zoned DTG100, Downtown General. The convention hotel is in a DTC, Downtown Core zone.

Table 17C.124.100 Downtown Zone Primary Uses allows Major Event Entertainment as a Permitted use.

The downtown core zoning category is applied to the core area of the downtown. The DTC zone allows the most intensive building height and massing within the downtown and the City.

The Convention Center is an existing building. The convention hotel is under construction.

The skywalk, in bridging Spokane Falls Boulevard, will connect two planning districts, the East End in which the INB Performing Arts Center and Convention Center campus is located, and the Downtown Core, in which the new convention hotel is being constructed. The zoning is DTC 100 for the Convention Center site and DTC for the convention hotel site.

Through SMC 12.02.410 the City Council declared that "it is the policy of the City to approve, in principal, the construction of pedestrian skywalks over City streets". Further recognizing that such skywalks "are intended to augment pedestrian movement, reduce pedestrian-vehicular conflict" and serve the convenience of the public in congested areas of the CBD. SMC 12.020.410B(2).

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Fast Forward Spokane: Downtown Plan Update, 12/2008 provides guidelines for the development of downtown Spokane. The site of the Convention Center campus is in the East End of Downtown. The new convention hotel is in the downtown Core.

Applicable policies of the 2008 Downtown Plan, **Fast Forward Spokane, Downtown Plan Update, November 2008**, are summarized below. The summary includes the applicable planning policies and a discussion of the consistency of the project with the plan. Essentially, the relevant topics include skywalks, gateways, convention center expansion, and development of opportunity sites, specifically the "South Site," on which the new convention hotel is being constructed.

Major assets cited in the Downtown Plan include Riverfront Park, the Convention Center, the Spokane River, and Centennial Trail. The plan acknowledges that the expanded Convention Center is a key economic engine for the City, helping to draw visitors Spokane and to support additional restaurant, entertainment, and retail opportunities.

CHAPTER TWO – BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT, Section 7.1 Built Environment

Skywalks

Downtown Spokane is served by a 15-block system of skywalks. While they provide comfortable pedestrian connections during cold or inclement weather, they also reduce street-level *activity and create a visual obstruction*.

The project location is a special district within the downtown core known as the "Hotel, Convention Center and INB Performing Arts Center District" that provides lodging and public venues that host both local and out-of-town visitors. The Double-Tree Hotel around which the Convention Center wraps,

and the new convention center hotel/parking garage currently under construction are major components of this district. The Double-Tree is connected to the Convention Center along the elevated pedestrian connector between the Convention Center West and the Exhibit Hall. The new convention hotel and parking garage will have its main guest entrance located on the south side of Spokane Falls Boulevard across from the Convention Center/INB Performing Arts Center Breezeway. At present, the pedestrian traffic in this area is predominantly related to the activities and events at the Convention Center and INB Performing Arts Center. However, the new hotel will increase the vehicular and pedestrian activity along Spokane Falls Boulevard beyond that presently existing as people will be moving between the hotel and public venues. No retail activity is along the north side of Spokane Falls Boulevard (outside the Double Tree Hotel). Retail activity along the south side between Bernard and Browne Street is limited to two restaurants and a FEDEX shipping/office center.

Under Chapter 5, downtown strategies,
Under Downtown Entries and Gateways: 9 Establish and install a hierarchy of wayfinding signage for the Downtown for bicyclists, motorists, and pedestrians that clearly delineate Downtown Districts, directions and distance to major attractions.

CHAPTER 6 DISTRICT STRATEGIES

Riverfront Views

1.32 Attractions, activities, and trails in the park should enhance riverfront views. ... Also, a Spokane River interpretive signage program should be implemented in order to improve wayfinding within the area.

The Special Districts section lists the Convention Center: **Hotel, INB Performing Arts Center, and Convention Center District Strategies**
2.8 Promote redevelopment activities and reinforce the Hotel, INB Performing Arts Center, and Convention Center District around the Convention Center.

2.9 Improve pedestrian connections between the Convention Center, hotels, the Intermodal Center, the Davenport District, and across Division Street to the Riverpoint Campus. Encourage and enhance pedestrian crossings of Division at West Main Avenue and along the Centennial Trail.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

The site is not within a shoreline environment.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No

The FEMA Flood Zones map shows a flood zone that extends to about the Centennial Trail, but not into the PFD-owned site. (<https://msc.fema.gov> FIRM 53063C0541D, 7/6/2010). The 100-year flood zone is depicted on the topographic survey (9/26/2012) prepared by Coffman Engineers for the project site.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None, the project is a connector between the Convention Center and new convention hotel.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None are proposed.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The proposed project will comply with existing City of Spokane Zoning (SMC 17C.124 for DTG zone), Design Standards (SMC 17C.124.500), and complete the Design Review process. (The project requirements are listed in the Pre-development Conference Notes, Sections 1B and 3A, Planning & Development, 10/10/2014).

The Pre-Development Conference notes state that Skywalks are permitted as Type III Permits issued by the Hearing Examiner. Because the physical constraints posed by the existing roof structure of the Convention Center and the floor height of the new convention hotel, the floor heights are at different heights. Therefore, a variance is requested to allow a height of 18 feet, 4 feet higher than allowed by the dimension code. The purpose of this is to disguise the slope of the ramp within the skywalk shell and compliment the aesthetics of the existing Convention Center. This dimensional variance as well as visual appearance of proportion, materials, and pattern is being reviewed by the City of Spokane Design Review Committee.

It is also being requested to allow a gateway wayfinding sign at the Convention Center end of the skywalk. The words "CONVENTION CENTER" in a clean

low contrast graphic would be placed on the east face of the skywalk. The purpose of the graphic would be to identify the location of the convention center campus to drivers and pedestrians.

9. HOUSING

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None

10. AESTHETICS

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas? What is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The top of the skywalk will be about 35 feet above the grade of Spokane Falls Boulevard. The primary materials will be glass and aluminum panel with an interior steel support structure.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

No designated view corridors are along Spokane Falls Boulevard across the north face of the Spokane Convention Center and INB Performing Arts Center.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

The skywalk will be designed to complement the buildings that it will connect. Further, the project will be reviewed by the city's Design Review Committee.

11. LIGHT AND GLARE

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

The project would produce minimal light and glare, but during Spring, Summer, and Fall morning hours when the sun is in the eastern sky, there is potential for glare from the glass-faced skywalk to reflect into the windshields of westbound automobiles on Spokane Falls Boulevard.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No, it is not expected that light or glare from the building and grounds would cause a safety hazard. There are no designated views in the vicinity of the Convention Center.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

The skywalk design and surfaces will be reviewed by the City of Spokane Design Review Committee. The interior lighting, its exterior appearance, as well as the lighting of the exterior will be evaluated for aesthetics as well as safety to users and the public.

A glare analysis of the final design will be completed by the designers to evaluate the impact of early morning sun off the glass face of the skywalk.

12. RECREATION

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

The Convention Center campus which includes the Exhibit Hall, Convention Center West Building, and INB Performing Arts Center provides venues for various activities and events including conventions and trade shows, social events, banquets, weddings, and entertainment.

The Centennial Trail forms the northern boundary of the Convention Center site. The Trail runs along the Spokane River between the Idaho State Line and Nine Mile Falls on the west and covers a distance of about 37 miles. <http://www.spokanecentennialtrail.org/>). The Trail is administered by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and maintained through a cooperative agreement among the Commission and Spokane city and county parks departments.

The bank of the Spokane River, on the north side of the Trail, is used for viewing the water and panorama along the river. Just west of the INB Performing Arts Center and Washington Street and across the river is Riverfront Park, a major urban park in the heart of the downtown.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe:

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None

13. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

a. Are there any places or objects listed on or proposed for national, state or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe:

There are no sites or structures listed or eligible for listing on the Spokane, State, or National historic registers on or adjacent to the site.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic archaeological, scientific or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site:

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

None

14. TRANSPORTATION

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Existing Street System

The skywalk connecting the Convention Center Campus and the new convention hotel is proposed to bridge Spokane Falls Boulevard.

The Division Street/Browne Street couplet provides access to Spokane Falls Boulevard from Interstate 90 to the south and US highway 2 and 395 routes north of Spokane.

Spokane Falls Boulevard is a principal arterial with 3 lanes one-way westbound. The 2009-2010 is the most current traffic flow map and shows a volume of 8,200 vehicles per 24-hour period between Browne and Bernard Streets.

Division Street, one-way 3 lanes northbound, and Browne Street, 3 lanes one way southbound form a couplet that merges at the Division Street Bridge. The couplet is classified as a Highway. The 2009-2010 traffic flow map shows a combined count of 47,600 on the Division Street Bridge with a northbound volume along Division of 25,700 and southbound along Browne Street of 21,900 vehicles per 24-hour period.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Yes. Spokane Transit Authority's (STA) Route No. 25 Division runs past the Convention Center along Spokane Falls Boulevard with stops in front of the Convention Center and INB Performing Arts Center. Routes 26, 28, and 29 serve the Riverfront Campus to the east via Division/Browne streets and Pine Street.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

The skywalk project would connect a new parking garage developed in conjunction with the convention hotel. These spaces are being constructed by another entity as part of the hotel project. Of the 900 spaces provided in the hotel parking garage, 300 spaces of the will be owned by the Spokane Public Facilities District.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak would occur.

None

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

The proposed skywalk would provide an all-weather, grade-separated crossing of Spokane Falls Boulevard. This corridor would accommodate INB Performing Arts Center or Convention Center visitors who are guests of the hotel, users of the parking garage, or others using the skywalk connection. The skywalk will provide an alternative crossing that avoids conflict with vehicles on Spokane Falls Boulevard, thereby reducing potential congestion.

15. PUBLIC SERVICES

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so generally describe.

Fire: Fire Station 1, 44 West Riverside Avenue, is about 2300 feet south of the site via Riverside Avenue, Division Street and Spokane Falls Boulevard.

Police: City of Spokane Police Department based in the Public Safety Building at West 1100 Mallon Avenue, 1.3 miles, about 5 minutes via Monroe Street, Main Avenue, Division Street, and Spokane Falls Boulevard.

Schools: The site is in Spokane School District 81. No new services would be required as a result of the proposed project.

Parks and Recreation: The Convention Center is bounded on the north side by the Centennial Trail and riverbank owned by the City of Spokane. The city's Parks and Recreation Department and the State Parks and Recreation Commission administer this riverbank area. One pedestrian route passes through the breezeway between Spokane Falls Boulevard and Centennial Trail.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any:

Fire: The project developer will coordinate with the fire department regarding items noted during the Pre-development conference and on-going plans review. (Pre-Development Conference Notes – 10/10/2013)

16. UTILITIES

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Water, sewer, and storm water, electricity, natural gas, telephone, and other communications are available to the existing Convention Center. Existing mains are adequate to serve the proposed project. The notes from the Pre-development Conference of (Pre-Development Conference Notes – 10/10/2013), and requirements for utility and fire protection, are incorporated in this document by reference.

Water – The existing Convention Center campus is served by the city's water system. A 30-inch main is along the Division Street Bridge and a 16-inch main is along Spokane Falls Boulevard. A 6-to-8-inch main, supplied by the main in Spokane Falls Boulevard, runs along the north side of the existing Convention Center.

Sewer – A 54-inch main in Spokane Falls Boulevard. It is not expected that the skywalk would require sewer services.

Storm Sewer – Stormwater management will be provided in accordance with the city's regulations.

The city requires that all storm water and surface drainage generated on-site be disposed on-site in accordance with SMC 17D.060, Storm Water Facilities.

Electrical - Avista Utility provides electrical service to the existing Convention Center campus.

Natural Gas - Avista Utility provides natural gas service to the Convention Center campus.

Telephone/Communications - Qwest telephone service is available to the Convention Center Campus.

Refuse service - The city of Spokane provides residential and commercial collection.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.


This information is discussed in 16a above.

C. SIGNATURE

I, the undersigned, swear under the penalty of perjury that the above responses are made truthfully and to the best of my knowledge. I also understand that, should there be any willful misrepresentation or willful lack of full disclosure on my part, the agency may withdraw any determination of nonsignificance that it might issue in reliance upon this checklist.

Date: 5/6/2014 Proponent: Spokane Public Facilities District
(Please Print or Type)

Proponent: (representative) Kevin J. Twohig, CEO
Address/Phone: 720 West Mallon Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201
Contact: 509-279-7000
ktwohig@spokanepfd.org

(Signature) 

Person completing form: Jim Kolva Date: 5/6/2014
Phone: (509) 458-5517 email: Jim@Kolva.comcastbiz.net

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Staff member(s) reviewing checklist: Kevin J. Twohig
Based on this staff review of the environmental checklist and other pertinent information, the staff:

A. X Concludes that there are no probable significant adverse impacts and recommends a determination of non-significance.

B. _____ Concludes that probable significant adverse environmental impacts do exist for the current proposal and recommends a mitigated determination of non significance with conditions.

C. _____ Concludes that there are probable significant adverse environmental impacts and recommends a determination of significance.

APPENDIX A MAPS, DRAWINGS

