



Downtown Plan Update Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Date: January 8, 2020, 10:30 A.M.

Attendance:

Lori Kinnear, Spokane City Council; Chris Wherity, MultiCare Health Systems; Gordon Hester, Kiemle Hagood; Doug Yost, Centennial Real Estate; Patty Tully, Inland Empire Bartenders Association; Lars Gilberts, University District; Jack Schneider, NAC Architecture; Char Kay, Washington Dept. of Transportation; Bobby Hatley, Hospitality Association; Steve Trabun, Avista; Ted Teske, Design Review Board; Bill Simer, Eide Bailly; Greg Francis, Plan Commission; Alan Chatham, Riverside Neighborhood Council; Nick Mounsey, Wonder Spokane; Dean Gunderson, City Planning; Mike Tresidder, Spokane Transit Authority

Project Team:

Andrew Rolwes, Downtown Spokane Partnership; Jeff Arango and Lesley Bain, Framework (by video); Kirstin Davis, City Communications; Louis Meuler and Nate Gwinn, City Planning

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Overview on current project status and timeline - Nate provided an overview of the plan update process and Downtown planning area, including a summary of public and private projects currently in the pipeline. It was noted that Riverside Avenue grind and overlay will happen this year. The [North Bank](#) and [South University District](#) subarea plan processes currently underway propose expansions to the Downtown planning boundary. The group reviewed community engagement efforts, including focus groups, public workshops, and the website where input is being collected and summarized.

3. Vision, goals, and strategies – Lesley from Framework read through the draft vision statement with the group. Suggestions from group members included the following:

- Include a reference in the first sentence, in addition to region, to city neighborhoods from which people are drawn, with greater connectivity and walkable continuity. (Downtown is the whole city's neighborhood.)
 - In referring to such connectivity, access to Downtown including driving should be acknowledged in addition to walking, transit, and other types. Group members disagreed about this suggestion related to the vision statement.
- Greater distinction between present and future tense regarding the draft vision content for aspirational goals, to help delineate where the community is now versus the future. Make sure aspirational goals are framed as what downtown is becoming.

Jeff from Framework read through the draft goals and supporting strategies derived from public engagement events in fall 2019. Draft goals included a Connected + Walkable Downtown; Welcome + Engaging Public Spaces for All; Thriving Arts, Culture + History; A Great Place to Live + Work; and A Well Managed Downtown for All. Suggestions and discussion from the group included the following:

- Electric scooters and other personal transportation devices have really connected downtown to the surrounding neighborhoods. These systems could use their own focus in the plan since they have their own unique infrastructure needs: do they work well together with bikes or not?
- Wayfinding needs to include a digital element. An interactive app that goes along with physical signage is important. City Mapper app is a good example of this, giving information about finding Uber, Lime: all different options. <https://citymapper.com/chicago?lang=en>
- The City, Spokane Regional Transportation Council, and other partners are expected to study the greater Division Street corridor and lane capacity needs in the future when the North Spokane Corridor freeway opens.

- Each goal should be based in purpose, and connect all these things together and to the vision. For example, why have a thriving arts culture? How do goals connect to each other?
- Ensure 'play' is defined along side 'live' and 'work' in the strategy framework. Also, if a street is going to be 'right-sized' based on traffic volume, ensure that it is an energized street - a truly vital, engaging street with some amount of existing vibrancy.
- Existing pinch-points need to be addressed within the road network as part of this plan.
- Wayfinding is a smart thing to do to help shorten people's perception of distance in an urban environment.

4. Role and purpose of steering committee – Andrew briefly introduced the steering committee's role in assisting input to the project team including providing written feedback on the draft Vision, Goals, and Strategies. Three committee members turned in written comments at the meeting. The group discussion included the following:

- Not much has been said about a capital projects list for this update. The 2008 update had 6 public opportunity sites as well as 13 public and private catalytic opportunity sites and zones.
- Downtown does not functionally go past Division. From the past update to now, Downtown still does not feel like it goes past Division. Do we want to be fully integrated and successful? It may require looking at it differently than in the past. This plays into the discussion about arts and culture and opportunity sites. How many catalytic sites do we need? Planned actions should be distributed evenly but adhere to a benchmark, to be close enough, e.g. 10-minute walk.

5. Challenges, Opportunities in 10 years – Acknowledging time constraints, the group did not discuss this item.

6. Upcoming meetings – A poll will be sent to the group for a meeting time before the public meeting February 5. The group will review comments so far and include a deeper discussion of committee member perspectives.

Wi-Fi: COS Guest
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Spokane Downtown Plan Update

Steering Committee Meeting
January 8, 2020

Nathan Gwinn, Assistant Planner II,
City of Spokane

Jeff Arango, Framework

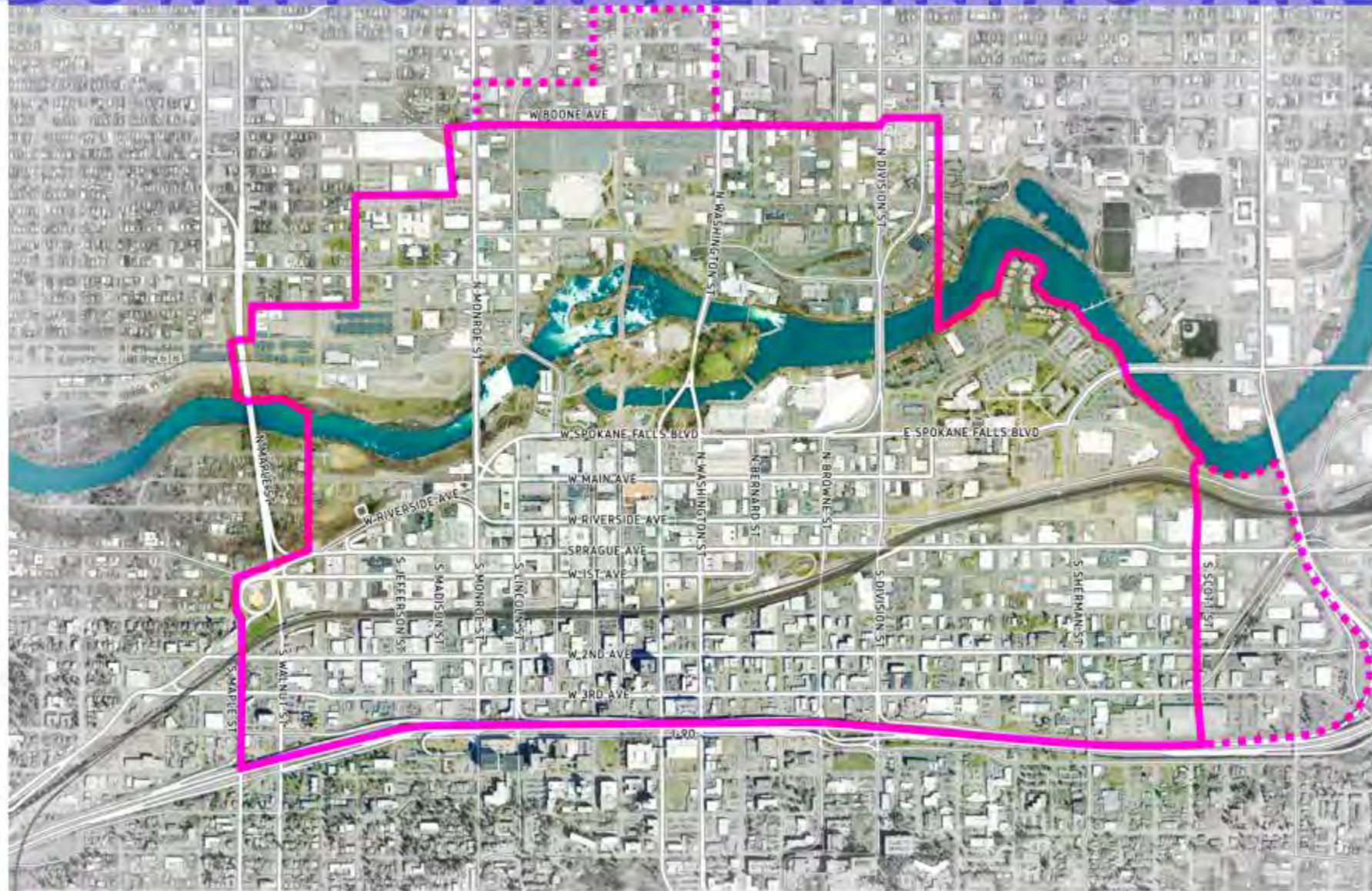
Andrew Rolwes, Vice President,
Downtown Spokane Partnership



Overview

- Current project status and timeline
 - Context
 - Community engagement
 - Schedule
- Vision, goals, and strategies
- Role and purpose of steering committee
 - Continuing engagement following adoption
- Challenges, opportunities in 10 years

DOWNTOWN PLANNING AREA



PLANNING AREA
PROPOSED EXPANSION

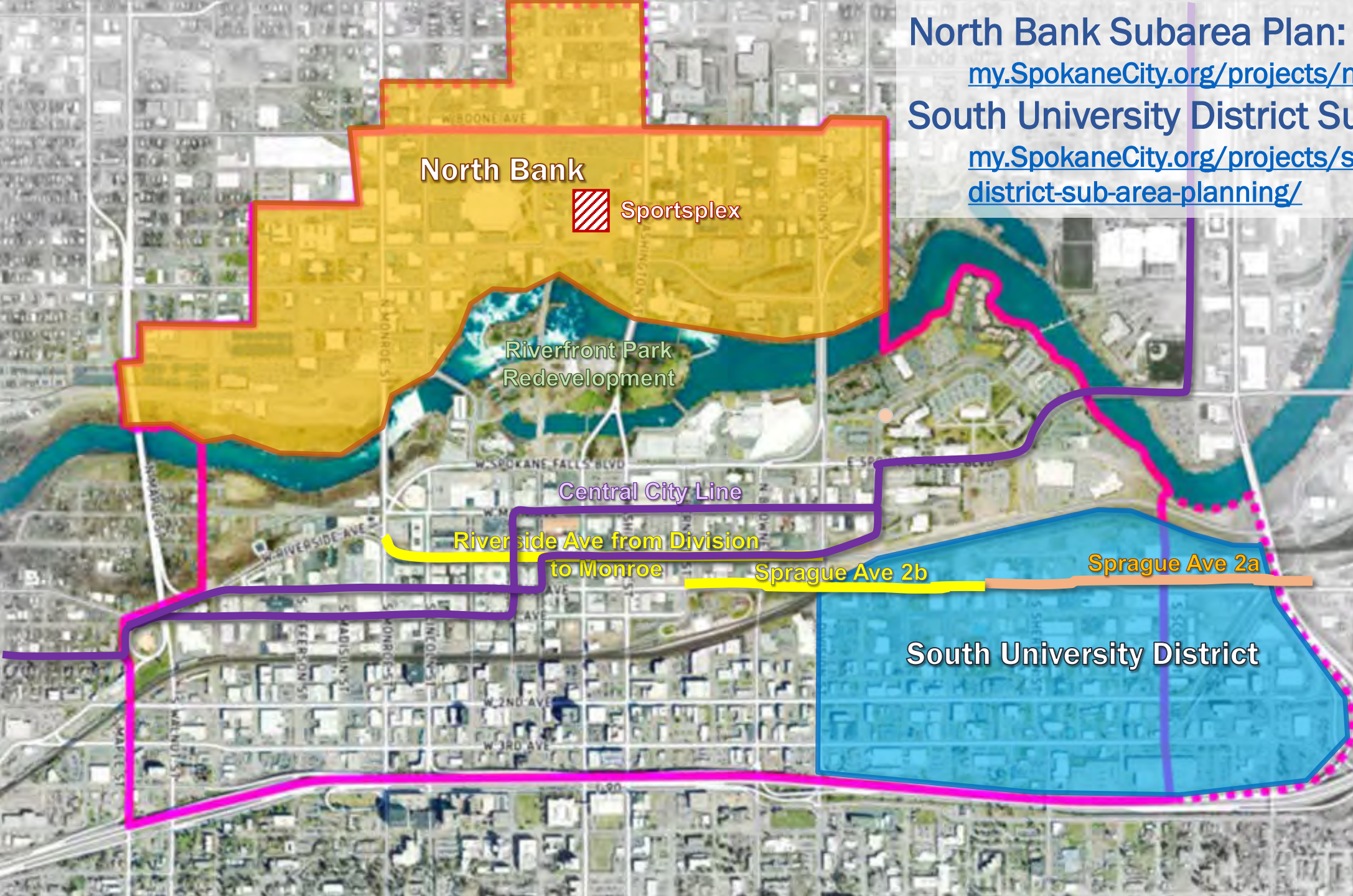
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North Bank Subarea Plan:

my.SpokaneCity.org/projects/north-bank-plan/

South University District Subarea Plan:

my.SpokaneCity.org/projects/south-university-district-sub-area-planning/



Spokane Downtown Plan Update Purpose

- Joint effort of a 10-year update to the plan
 - Downtown Spokane Partnership + City of Spokane
 - Planning consultant Framework
- Plan for growth and development in the only Regional Center in City Comprehensive Plan
- Downtown Plan update precedents
 - 1999 Charting the Future: The Plan for a New Downtown
 - 2008 Fast Forward Spokane: Downtown Plan Update
- Focal point to guide decisions in 10-year period
- Roadmap for public and private investment

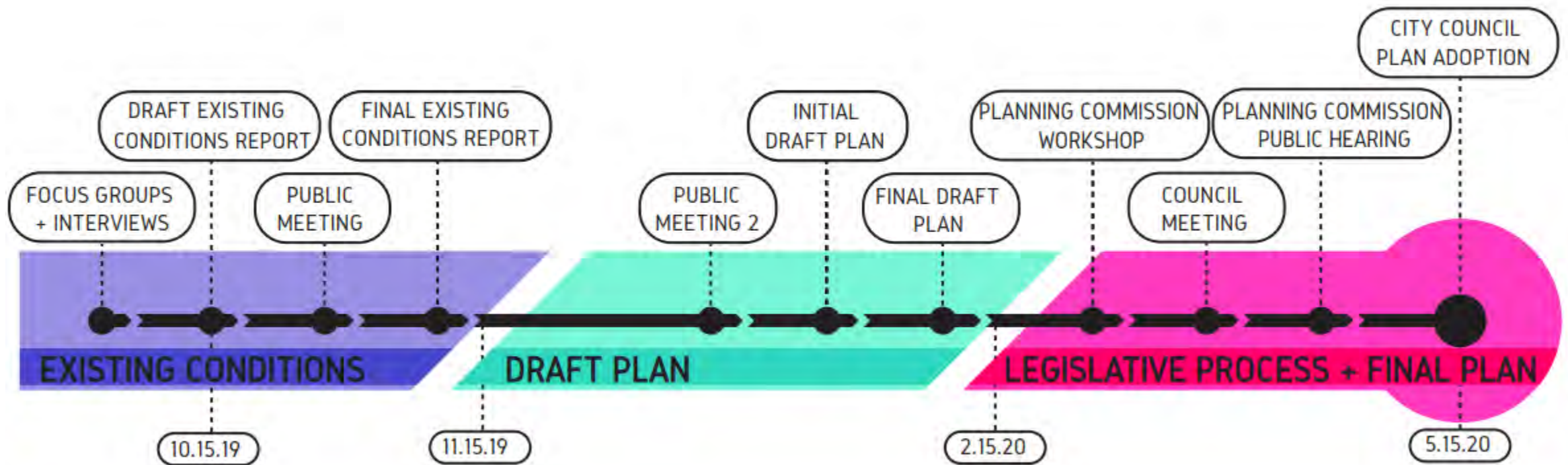


Community Engagement



- Stakeholder interviews + focus groups
- Public workshops
 - October 2019 – Existing Conditions
 - Workshop Summary: [SpokaneDowntownPlan.org/documents](https://spokanedowntownplan.org/documents)
 - **February 5, 2020** – Draft Vision + Strategies
- Website and surveys:
 - [SpokaneDowntownPlan.org](https://spokanedowntownplan.org)
- Legislative process – goals + policies only
 - Plan Commission Recommendation
 - Adoption by City Council
- Following changes to code, land use and zoning maps, to implement the plan policies

Project Timeline



Initial Draft Plan Update Vision

Downtown Spokane is the cultural and economic heart of the Inland Northwest, drawing people from the region, the nation, and around the world. Centered on the Spokane River, the spectacular falls, and the signature Riverfront Park, the urban fabric is walkable and full of interest and distinctive character. Downtown feels safe, comfortable, and welcoming for people of all communities and backgrounds. The history of Spokane shines through in its irreplaceable architecture and the stories of railroads and industry. Downtown Spokane is bringing new residents, new businesses and opportunities for education, recreation and cultural activities. Downtown Spokane is a great source of pride and poised to capture the opportunities of the future.

Initial Draft Plan Update Goals

- **CONNECTED + WALKABLE DOWNTOWN**
- **WELCOMING + ENGAGING PUBLIC SPACES FOR ALL**
- **THRIVING ARTS, CULTURE + HISTORY**
- **A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE + WORK**
- **A WELL MANAGED DOWNTOWN FOR ALL**

Initial Draft Plan Update Strategies

CONNECTED + WALKABLE DOWNTOWN

- **Right size streets and create pedestrian- and bike-friendly connections downtown**
- **Implement a wayfinding program**
- **Capitalize on the Central City Line**
- **Reduce surface parking and consolidate parking in garages**
- **Create a Downtown Public Development Authority for infill development, parking, partnerships and other issues.**

Initial Draft Plan Update Strategies

WELCOMING + ENGAGING PUBLIC SPACES FOR ALL

- **Program and activate public spaces Downtown**
- **Manage the concentration of homeless services**

THRIVING ARTS, CULTURE + HISTORY

- **Develop a historic and cultural trail through Downtown**
- **Establish an arts and theater district to support historic venues**
- **Create a public market with an arts focus**

Initial Draft Plan Update Strategies

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE + WORK

- **Accelerate residential development Downtown**
- **Enhance residential amenities like public spaces and schools**
- **Improve parking and transit options for Downtown employees**

A WELL MANAGED DOWNTOWN FOR ALL

- **Leverage parking management to improve Downtown and enhance parking benefit district**
- **Develop new promotions and marketing campaign to attract downtown businesses**

Steering Committee

- **Purpose**
 - Provide a balanced representation of Downtown interest groups
 - Guide development of key products
 - Strategy Framework - draft Vision, Goals, and Strategies
 - Initial and final full draft plans
- **Request**
 - Help spread the word
 - Project team requests input on draft Vision, Goals, and Strategies
 - Survey, late January through February 15, 2020
 - Provide written feedback on draft Vision, Goals, and Strategies

Challenges and Opportunities

- Invitation
 - Around the table: Share biggest challenge and opportunity in the next 10 years Downtown



Upcoming Meetings

- Steering committee meetings
 - Additional meeting if needed
 - Full initial draft plan (March/February 2020)
 - Final draft plan (early Spring 2020)
- Plan Commission
 - Final draft plan workshop (early Spring 2020)
 - Public hearing on proposed subarea plan (Spring 2020)
- Public Workshop #2 (February 5, 2020)



Thank You

SpokaneDowntownPlan.org



SURVEY



DRAFT VISION

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DRAFT GOALS

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- THRIVING ARTS, CULTURE + HISTORY
- A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE + WORK
- A WELL MANAGED DOWNTOWN FOR ALL

We want to hear your thoughts on the vision and strategies for the future of Downtown. Your input will help inform the development of Spokane's Downtown Plan. Please submit your comments by February 15, 2020.

SPOKANE DOWNTOWN PLAN



DOWNTOWN
SPOKANE





DRAFT STRATEGIES

CONNECTED + WALKABLE DOWNTOWN

- Right size streets and create pedestrian- and bike-friendly connections downtown
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- Capitalize on the Central City Line
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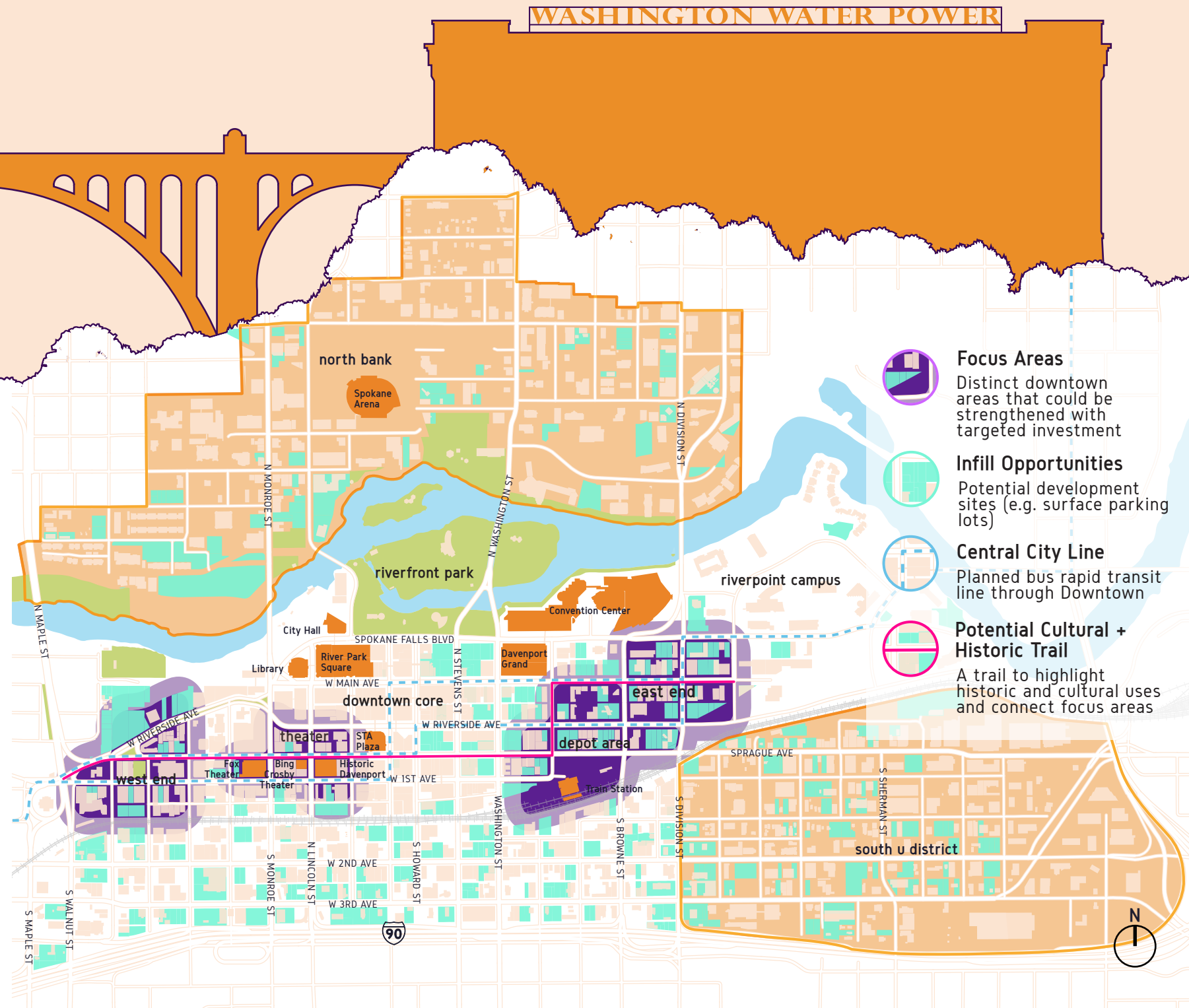
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A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE + WORK

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A WELL MANAGED DOWNTOWN FOR ALL

- Leverage parking management to improve Downtown and enhance parking benefit district
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Focus Areas

Distinct downtown areas that could be strengthened with targeted investment



Infill Opportunities

Potential development sites (e.g. surface parking lots)



Central City Line

Planned bus rapid transit line through Downtown



Potential Cultural + Historic Trail

A trail to highlight historic and cultural uses and connect focus areas