

A black and white photograph of the Spokane Riverfront sculpture, a large, abstract structure made of metal pipes and concrete pillars. In the foreground, several people are walking across a paved area. The text 'SPOKANE DOWNTOWN PLAN' is overlaid on the image in large, bold, colorful letters. A pink horizontal bar is positioned below the word 'PLAN'.

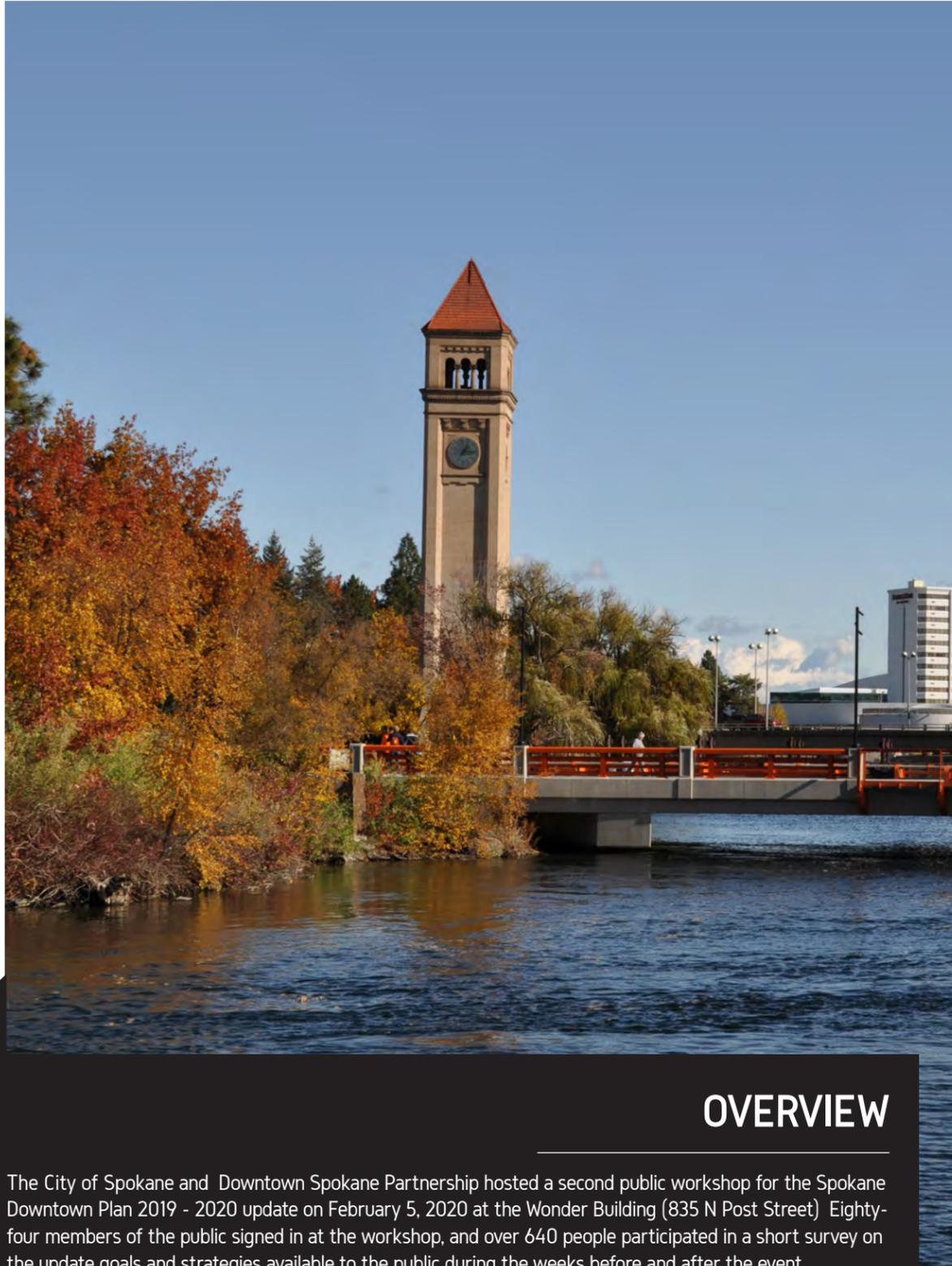
SPOKANE DOWNTOWN PLAN



WORKSHOP 2 SUMMARY



framework



OVERVIEW

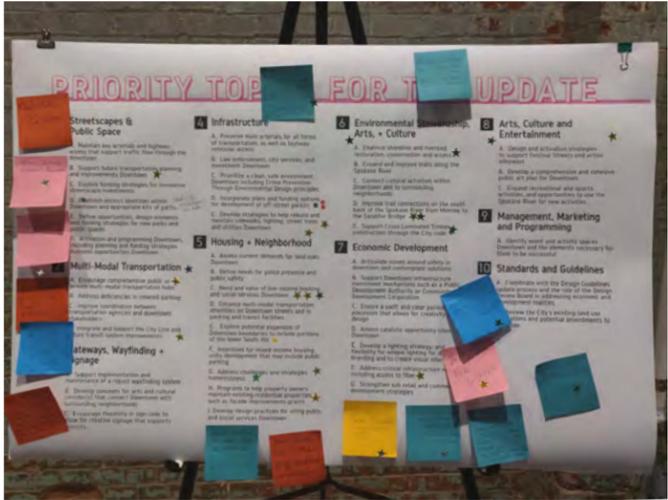
The City of Spokane and Downtown Spokane Partnership hosted a second public workshop for the Spokane Downtown Plan 2019 - 2020 update on February 5, 2020 at the Wonder Building (835 N Post Street). Eighty-four members of the public signed in at the workshop, and over 640 people participated in a short survey on the update goals and strategies available to the public during the weeks before and after the event.

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Framework the City and Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) helped facilitate the workshop, focused on draft goals and strategies for the 2020 Downtown Plan update. The public was invited to provide input on these preliminary goals and strategies, which will serve as an outline for the Downtown Plan. Input on the material presented at the workshop will help guide the consultant team in their refinement of these ideas, and help identify any gaps that should be addressed as the draft plan is being developed. Detailed comments on specific locations or strategies will help inform the actions that are part of each strategy and guide the selection of priority projects, corridors and infill opportunities.

All information on the preliminary goals and strategies was presented to the public in an open house format with background information and select examples or best practices for specific strategies, some of which were referenced in the first workshop in October. Members of the public were invited to mark boards with stars to indicate they liked certain goals or strategies, or dots to indicate they disliked them, and could offer written notes on post-its on any of the content presented. Comment cards were also provided for longer notes on conditions downtown, or additional feedback on the goals and strategies.

The workshop was open to the public from 6pm to 8pm, and people filtered in throughout the evening. Attendees could have informal conversations with the project team and City and DSP staff about their suggestions and concerns.



WHAT WE HEARD

Public input from the workshop was largely positive across all goals and strategies. This is consistent with survey responses which rated the goals an average of 3.7 out of 5, with 61.9% of responses rating the goals and strategies 4 or higher. There was clear consensus around improving multi-modal access, encouraging new residential development, and enhancing residential amenities downtown, as well as a potential cultural and historical trail.

Attendees at the workshop had mixed responses on managing the concentration of homeless services Downtown, but input was otherwise favorable to all goals and strategies. The strategies that rated best were those that focused on making Downtown a more 'complete' neighborhood with more housing and residential amenities to encourage growth in Spokane's Downtown population, each with over 20 favorable votes. Attendees were also supportive of fewer surface parking lots downtown, right-sizing streets with bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and better managed parking as part of efforts to enhance the parking benefit district Downtown. Strategies to support arts, culture and history and activate public spaces downtown were all well-received, although they did not rate as highly as residential amenities.

Although they were the subject of many comments on the mapping exercise, strategies to make downtown better connected and more walkable with changes to wayfinding, and supporting transit, received fewer positive responses. As part of the goal for "A Connected and Walkable Downtown" strategies B and C each received 10 or fewer favorable ratings, but the goal ranked higher than others in survey responses (59.5% of respondents ranking it among their two most important goals) and many comments on the mapping exercised referenced elements of these strategies. A brief summary of how each goal was rated by survey respondents included as an appendix.

Comments posted on the boards are recorded on the following pages with positive and negative ratings under each strategy, shown as a 'thumbs up' for each star and a 'thumbs down' for each dot.



GOAL: A CONNECTED + WALKABLE DOWNTOWN

A. Right size streets and create pedestrian and bike-friendly connections downtown

- Bikeways or/and walk under/connected to bridges that integrate onto the central trails.
- Consider Sprague west of Lincoln.
- Would like a connection between sidewalk/bikeway across Maple street bridge to Kendal Yards, and centennial trail.
- Streets need to be energized not necessarily right sized
- North/South major arterials need to be preserved. East/West major arterials need to be preserved.
- Walkability and public space. Three essential elements: 1) benches, 2) trees, 3) drinking fountains.
- Pedestrian connection to Liberty Park from Downtown.
- Shuttle into Kendall Yards.
- Keep one-way streets downtown
- Get rid of one-way streets downtown

B. Implement a wayfinding program

- Incorporate wayfinding includes arts venues + sculpture+environmental knowledge+historic sites.

C. Capitalize on the City Line

- Encourage new housing along/near this route with incentives.
- Please consider light rail instead of BRT as most successful cities have.
- Free transit downtown!



D. Reduce surface parking and consolidate parking in garages

- Map and submit proposal for parking garages to public commission!
- Parking must be reasonable for ALL levels of income.
- Free Ride Zone Downtown.
- City needs to map and submit sites for proposed parking garages for public comment. You've addressed transit and central city line with far more detail!
- Reduce surface parking Downtown
- Are parking garages feasible?



GOAL: WELCOMING + ENGAGING PUBLIC SPACES

A. Program and activate public spaces Downtown.

- More active public spaces, then maybe more open green space or pocket park.
- Daytime Youth Program - invite teens to the downtown core to participate and be part of the fun.
- Drug users passed out in the alley is not welcoming nor engaging. Alleys between 2nd Ave and the railroad tracks are a problem!
- Address graffiti problems!
- Art Alleys like Sandpoint and other places!
- Alley can be used for more than utilities!
- Support arts alley, public art in vacant space.
- Parties in the alley



B. Manage the concentration of homeless services.



- Homeless services must be concentrated to be effective for those who need them.
- Homeless are people and citizens of this city. We need to address the root causes of homelessness and not treat it as a crime.
- Homelessness impacts all areas. Focus on creating effective network, rather than deconcentrating services.
- Time and ease of use getting to these locations will impact effectiveness.
- Use the services that exist and encourage a whole approach and not siloed approach.
- All Spokane's homeless services are located at the intro of Spokane--the very first impression people have of this beautiful city. Support homeless services, but why can't they be located just outside downtown core? How can we move them or provide at least one access point to downtown that has trees, plants, non-vacant buildings and generally feel like a welcoming entrance to the city?
- Don't jail homeless population. Use tax to give them mental health services and job training.

GOAL: THRIVING ARTS CULTURE + HISTORY

A. Develop a historic and cultural walking trail through Downtown



- Integrate North Bank of riverfront park & Bosch lot into walking spaces, trails. Not just concrete parking garages.
- Integrate wayfinding and environmental knowledge into trail signage to enhance sense of place.
- Highlight the location associated with different religious groups and Native American sites.
- Create different experience along the trails according to the surrounding context.

B. Establish an arts and theater district to support historic venues



- Highlight Native America culture

C. Create a public market with an arts focus



- Make it real and don't make an art mall
- Public market needs to help the artists not just vendors.
- What about alleys? What about visual art?
- Perhaps spreading it throughout the city, rather than 2 districts (parking etc.).
- Model after Boise ID "Freak Alley". It is vibrant and safe day and night.
- Model public markets after Milwaukee and Santa Barbara. Fun, small, delicious vendors.
- Create a block for classes: art, bike tech, cooking.
- Use Bosch lot for history, trees, art, instead of parking -- a Native American site.
- Long Beach has done this well recently!
- How do we get more input from young people and people of color?

GOAL: A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE + WORK

A. Accelerate residential development Downtown



- Safety
- Mixed income housing. Variety is key! Low middle income side by side.
- Incorporate historical architecture already established.
- Provide even greater incentives for rent controlled buildings. MFTE is not enough.
- Density, we have so many empty surface lots, and we need to encourage developers to put up residences. These empty lots are an eye sore.
- Need to include "play" to account for retail and entertainment downtown.

B. Enhance residential amenities like public spaces and schools



- Add libraries.
- Affordable grocery stores.
- Downtown is not a place for schools. All children would have to be bused and driven adding to traffic. Kids will not go to school on public transit.
- Provides amenities for all ages including kids.
- More areas to walk pets.
- More trees and hedges please. They capture air pollution plus cools.
- Embrace dark sky lighting methodology and new lighting installs.

GOAL: A WELL MANAGED DOWNTOWN FOR ALL

A. Leverage parking management to improve Downtown and enhance the parking benefit district



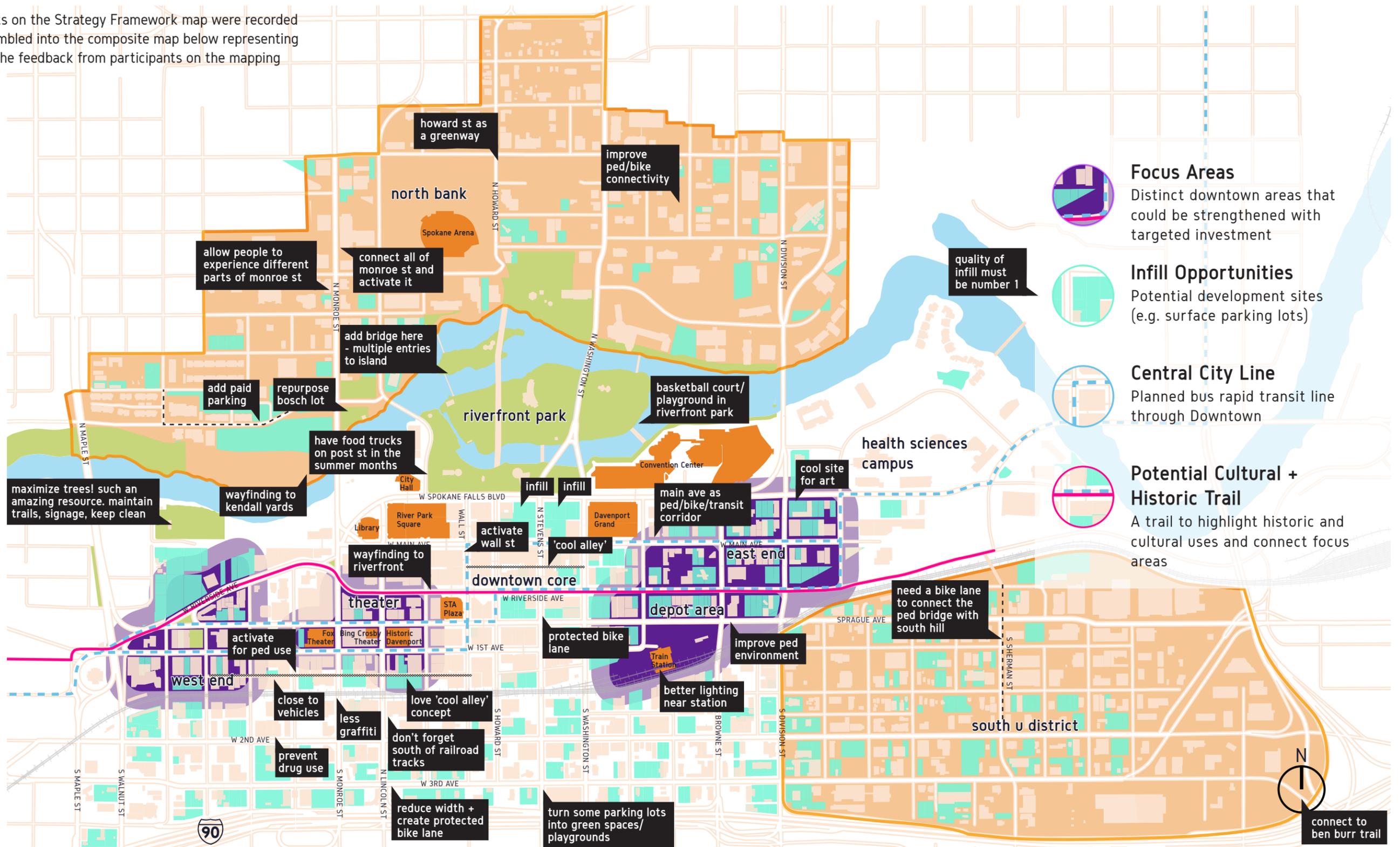
- Still need to maintain parking for those whose coming in from outer communities, and workers who park downtown to make your food/coffee.
- Parking for disabled and transit for aging audience and for arts venues are important.
- Embrace multi-modal not an auto-centric downtown.
- No parking subsidies. Make bus transportation easy and cheap. Parking more expensive.
- More greens, more trees.
- Reduce parking. Increase ped, bike, and transit.

B. Develop new promotions and marketing campaign to attract Downtown businesses



- Downtown grocery market would be great.
- More affordable living.
- Make sure marketing support arts venues!
- Retail needs to be emphasized along with office and residential. Need all three for balanced growth.
- Make business startup loans or planning in use accessible to all.

Comments on the Strategy Framework map were recorded and assembled into the composite map below representing most of the feedback from participants on the mapping exercise.

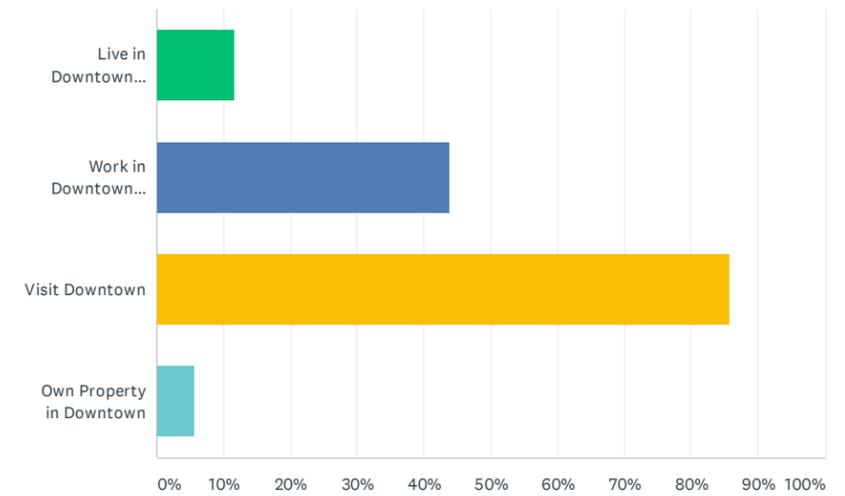


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Focus Areas
 Distinct downtown areas that could be strengthened with targeted investment
- 
Infill Opportunities
 Potential development sites (e.g. surface parking lots)
- 
Central City Line
 Planned bus rapid transit line through Downtown
- 
Potential Cultural + Historic Trail
 A trail to highlight historic and cultural uses and connect focus areas

APPENDIX: SUMMARY OF SURVEY RATINGS

Q1 Do you (check all that apply)

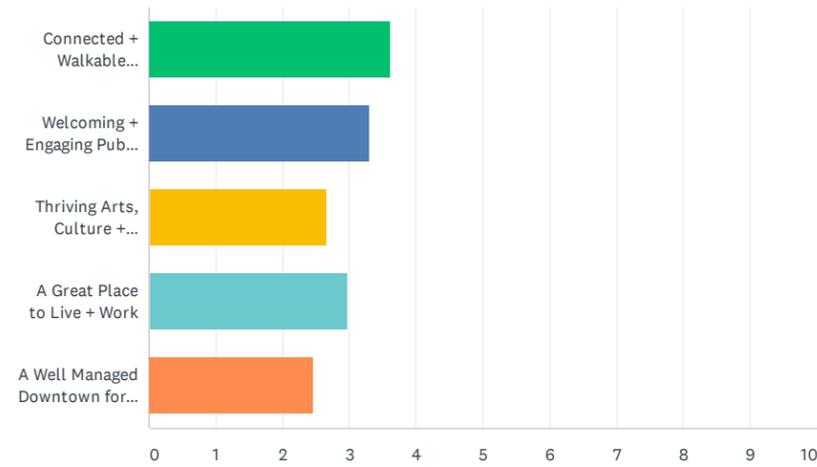
Answered: 644 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Live in Downtown Spokane	11.80%	76
Work in Downtown Spokane	43.94%	283
Visit Downtown	85.87%	553
Own Property in Downtown	5.75%	37
Total Respondents: 644		

Q2 Please rank the draft goals and their supporting strategies from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important)

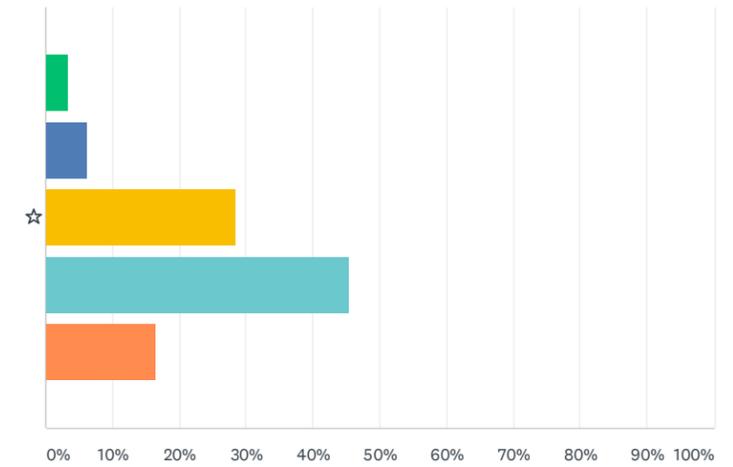
Answered: 641 Skipped: 6



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Connected + Walkable Downtown	36.51% 230	23.02% 145	16.51% 104	13.81% 87	10.16% 64	630	3.62
Welcoming + Engaging Public Spaces for All	23.50% 149	23.03% 146	24.29% 154	19.40% 123	9.78% 62	634	3.31
Thriving Arts, Culture + History	10.73% 68	17.67% 112	23.34% 148	22.40% 142	25.87% 164	634	2.65
A Great Place to Live + Work	17.90% 114	21.66% 138	18.52% 118	24.65% 157	17.27% 110	637	2.98
A Well Managed Downtown for All	12.05% 77	14.40% 92	17.37% 111	19.56% 125	36.62% 234	639	2.46

Q5 On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being excellent, how do you rate the draft strategies overall?

Answered: 628 Skipped: 19



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	3.34% 21	6.21% 39	28.50% 179	45.38% 285	16.56% 104	628	3.66



SPOKANE

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