

# Shadle Area Neighborhood Plan

June 2019





STUDIOCASCADE Part of 😒 SCJ ALLIANCE

### **Comprehensive** Plan

Long-range policy - a touchstone for our work



CITY OF

SPOKANE

# Zoning



### What types of development the existing rules permit



### The District Center Plan's role

### What to expect from this work



#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this district center plan is to clarify and focus City policy on **land use**, transportation, investment, and economic development strategy within this portion of Spokane. The plan will produce a set of **recommendations** for the City's zoning, capital facilities plan, and transportation system design, outlining next steps the community can take to encourage and direct reinvestment in the Shadle area.

Funded by both the **Audobon/Downriver and Northwest neighborhoods**, this project is identified as a priority action by both neighborthood councils. In addition, the comprehensive plan designates this area as a "district center", anticipating transformation generally leading to more development intensity. The neighborhoods understand that change is coming, and they want to make sure that it is envisioned, directed and managed appropriately. Its location along busy arterials and transit lines, the presence middle and hight schools, and the popularity of the Shadle Library make this district full of **potential**. This project will clarify its hoped-for future and identify what should be done to set it up for success.

### **District Center hopes:**

Provide incentives to encourage revitalization and use of historic and older commercial districts.

Identify districts as the framework for providing secondary schools, larger parks and recreation facilities, and more varied shopping facilities

Orient new buildings in District Centers to the street, with parking lots located behind or on the side of buildings when possible

Design circulation systems to provide pedestrian access between residential areas and the district center, and to support frequent transit service

Provide a central gathering place, such as a civic green, square or park

economic vitality in those areas designated for economic development or mixed-use



### Issues



### Topics we need to address in the plan...and the vision it strives to achieve

#### Vision

Among the many points of pride shared by Shadle's residents, it is home to Shadle Park High School, Glover Middle School, the Shadle Library, a new aquatic center, and Shadle Park. These components of civic life set the foundation for Shadle's identity, bringing together in a single place many of the essential elements needed to support everyday life.

Even as the community has grown, appreciation for these facts remain – and, it's hoped, will underpin the future of areas where these elements

remain prominent. A strategy combining policy initiatives, partnership, private development and public investment will focus transformation, helping stimulate creation of a "district center" as envisioned in the comprehensive plan. It will build on the existing infrastructure networks, land use patterns and connections that make Shadle an important, identifiable, and popular place.











# A first look: What we learned from our orientation interviews

Issue	Discussion
Demographics: Households living within a five-minute walk are generally smaller and younger, potentially providing a ready-made population for increased transit use & non- motorized travel.	Interviewees noted that the neighborhood surrounding Shadle Center is diverse and dynamic, with a mix of elderly, young families, a variety of household incomes and a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds. The neighborhood is one of Spokane's more affordable, and this is attractive to a wide spectrum of households, both in the rental and ownership markets.
Park use: The park is popular, but some of the placement and treatment of uses along the park's perimeter combine to make its interior less accessible.	Interviewees noted that the park is becoming a busier, more active social space. It hosts several programmed community activities during the course of the summer, and its water park sees intense use throughout the season. But there are other aspects of the park's use interviewees noted, too, including homeless settlements – especially on the downhill side of the park – and an apparent disconnect between the water park facility and the rest of the park.
Home types: Predominantly single-family, the homes are relatively small, with rental housing proliferating along the Wellesley Ave corridor. This may provide opportunities for higher-intensity development in time.	Interviewees noted that the homes on the north side of Wellesley are small and suited well for young families and the elderly. Still, they also noted that they are generally rental units and seem to turn over rapidly, impacted by the speed and volume of Wellesley traffic.
<b>Community outreach:</b> While well used, the Shadle Center, library and high school can feel somewhat detached from the community that surrounds them, emblematic of larger lack of connection between the neighborhoods and the neighborhood councils.	Several interviewees believe the neighborhood surrounding the center is not well connected, with peripheral relationships to their respective neighborhood councils and a somewhat removed attachment to neighborhood affairs and local government. They would like to see more of a sense of "shared lot" in what is happening and do not really know how to approach unifying the neighborhood to identify, work though and resolve common issues.
Arterial traffic: Wellesley and Alberta are busy arterials, carrying regional traffic at volumes and speeds that discourage pedestrian crossing at other than signalized intersections and make the sidewalk an uninviting place.	Interviewees see the speed and volume of traffic on Wellesley, Belt and Alberta as difficult to manage. While they realize that Wellesley's regional prominence adds to the continued success of the businesses at Shadle, they think there are more effective ways to manage the traffic while still retaining access to areas beyond the immediate neighborhood. Traffic flows also make turning left out of driveways a challenge, and pedestrians have few convenient options for crossing, except at signalized intersections.
Homelessness: Complaints about vagrancy, drug use, rough sleeping, and panhandling indicate that homelessness-related problems are greater than simply a downtown issue.	Interviewees mentioned the number of homeless in the study area, surprised that there was such a concentration this far removed from downtown. Some interviewees are eager to find ways to help those looking for it, with housing programs operating to help some of the population find new stability in reliable housing.
Property crime: Despite the presence of a local COPS Shop, car prowlings and other petty property crime still occurs in the area.	While some of the property crime may be related to homelessness, interviewees noted that the neighborhood north of Wellesley experiences car prowling and vandalism somewhat frequently. One interviewee noted that people may squat in vacant houses or park RVs on neighborhood streets, stealing from cars parked on street nearby. Shoplifting at WalMart and Safeway is also relatively frequent, according to interviewees.

# Outreach

## Notice sent to 7,000+

Mailed to each address in Audubon/Downriver & Northwest

# Survey

More than 150 responses

Closes July 31









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Vision Workshop Character Gap Exercise - June 2019

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# Studio



# Streets





# Streets









# Streets



### Going with the Flow



### Maintain Shadle's suburban role, facilitating regional mobility...

Alley cut-through prevention Enhanced transit stops at crossings Maximized intersection capacity Pedestrian crosswalk Driveway improvements Four-way stop

#### Actions/Initiatives:

Repave streets and alleys to make vehicular travel safer and more pleasant.

Monitor signal timing at area intersections to ensure smooth traffic flows and alleviate backup blocking shopping center driveways.

Install RRFB crossing at Nettleton.

Relocate bus stops to Nettleton and provide shelters.

Stripe Alberta to prevent blockage of shopping center driveway by queued vehicles.

Slow traffic on Belt St and consider alternative pedestrian crossing locations.

Install four-way stop at Belt St and Longfellow Ave

Implement measures to eliminate "cut-through" traffic using alleys to avoid congested intersections.



### ...and maintaining vehicular access to the center.

This approach places an emphasis on vehicular travel and accommodation of smooth regional traffic flows on the planning area's arterial streets. It changes very little of what is now existing, making sure that freight and passenger vehicles can access the commercial center and that peak-hour flows can make it through the planning area with as little resistance as possible. Pedestrians and cyclists must adapt to a transportation system designed for vehicleso.

## **Making Little Tweaks**

### Make deliberate, strategic adjustments...



Improved sidewalks linking the neighborhoods to the center Improved pedestrian crossings Belt St calming and enhancement Pedestrian access Interparcel connections Four-way stop

#### Actions/Initiatives:

Install HAWK signal at Wellesley & Nettleton.

Relocate bus stops to Nettleton and provide enhanced facilities on shopping center side where property could be available.

Enhance east-west pedestrian connections through shopping center and across Belt St.

Make Belt pedestrian oriented between Wellesley and Longfellow.

Activate space between Glover Middle School and shopping center.

Create a grand walkway connecting Shadle High School to Belt St.

Include sheltered benches and activity spaces in Shadle Park.

Improve pedestrian connections to Wellesley through parking lot at the shopping center.

Create a place for the "community," bringing together a variety of age groups, specifically providing space and activities for seniors.



### ...maximizing the impact of smaller investments.

This approach to the Shadle area focuses on adaptive change, anticipating little in the way of overall transformation and yet recognizing that the streets, public spaces, area housing, and retail center are not working at their best. It appreciates the diversity of use in the area, including schools, parks and shopping, and it seeks to make Shadle an easier place to access.

### **Creating an Active Place**

### Mix housing variety, shopping, schools & parks in a compact, urban center...

Improved sidewalks linking the neighborhoods to the center Townhouses fronting on Wellesley New development pattern potential Mixed residential over retail New pedestrian connections Calmed streets

#### Actions/Initiatives:

Slow traffic on Wellesley and enhance the street between Alberta and Belt.

Make Belt pedestrian oriented between Wellesley and Longfellow.

Create space inviting families and individuals to linger in the Shadle District after shopping and eating.

Create a park master plan with a focus on the interior area of the park.

Improve public transit stops and dedicate space and infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists.

Redevelop or re-orient storefronts and small shops closer to the street.

Incentivize a wider variety of businesses to locate in the area.

Create a place for the "community," bringing together a variety of age groups, specifically providing space and activities for seniors.



### ...making things available within an easy walk.

This approach focuses on fundamental change in Shadle, reshaping Wellesley to function as an identity-rich main street and establishing the foundations for an even greater diversity in housing, retail, and civic uses. It suggests an active transition into higher-intensity housing – like townhomes or flats – along arterials and an increased awareness of arterial street corridors as components of the public realm.



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Exercise

# Schedule

- Community Studio June 11 13
  - Vision workshop June 11
  - Strategy workshop June 13
- Questionnaire (surveymonkey.com/r/shadleareaplan) Continuing
  - Concerts in the Park July/August
  - Neighborhood meeting September





# www.my.spokanecity.org/projects/

surveymonkey.com/r/shadleareaplan

