

BRIEFING PAPER  
City of Spokane  
Pedestrian Master Plan  
October 19, 2015

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Subject

The Plan Commission has forwarded a recommended Pedestrian Master Plan to the City Council.

Background

The Plan Commission held a public hearing on the Pedestrian Master Plan on September 23, 2015. The Pedestrian Master Plan amends the Comprehensive Plan and is being adopted as a subarea plan.

The plan supports a more walkable Spokane encouraging a high-quality walking environment that supports increased levels of physical activity, important connections to transit, and more transportation options for all. The plan includes: goals for the pedestrian environment; description of the basic elements of providing a quality pedestrian experience; existing conditions for walking today; and, recommended policies and actions. In addition, the plan identifies Pedestrian Priority Zones which are based on an assessment of indicators measuring pedestrian demand features and pedestrian deficiencies in order to clarify where the pedestrian needs are the greatest.

Impact

The goals, policies, and actions and other parts of the plan provide direction for future programs to enhance the quality of the pedestrian environment. The Pedestrian Priority Zones provide guidance for identifying high priority areas for future pedestrian improvements. The Pedestrian Priority Zones were identified using the pedestrian needs analysis. The Pedestrian Needs Analysis compares pedestrian demand indicators with existing pedestrian infrastructure, and is used to compare different locations to help make data-driven decisions that are equitable and fair. This is only one tool to assist with prioritizing locations for pedestrian projects; it should not be used as the sole determinant for making decisions. An integrated approach that includes availability and stipulations of funding, community support, and cost sharing opportunities with other planned projects will be considered in the decision making process. Pedestrian projects and other street projects are identified in the Six-Year Comprehensive Street Program which is updated annually.

Action

A City Council public hearing is scheduled on November 2, 2015.