

May 1, 2014
UPDATED February, 2016



City of Spokane
Comprehensive Plan Update

Updated Public Participation Program

**City of Spokane
Comprehensive Plan Update
Revised Public Participation Program (RCW 36.70A.140)**

INTRODUCTION

The City of Spokane is undertaking a major periodic review of the Comprehensive Plan as required by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). The GMA requires local governments to create and broadly disseminate a Public Participation Program (Program). This revised Program updates an earlier version to reflect a modified schedule for the Review. It also describes how the City of Spokane (City) will meet the requirements for early and continuous public participation during the Review.

A. GOALS

The overall goals of the Program are to:

- Provide objective information to assist the public in understanding issues
- Provide opportunities for the public to contribute ideas and provide feedback through all phases of the review
- Improve the involvement of traditionally under-represented audiences
- Make the process accessible and engaging to interested citizens

B. SCHEDULE

The GMA requires that the City complete a major review of its Comprehensive Plan by June 30, 2017. The City initially launched the Review in late June, 2012 and conducted outreach and engagement in 2012-2013. The previous activities include:

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|--|-------------------------|
| • Determine Extent of Update, Develop Original Public Participation Plan | Summer - Fall 2012 |
| • Review and Analyze GMA Requirements and Compliance | Summer – Fall 2012 |
| • Evaluate Status of Comprehensive Plan and Implementation | Fall 2012 |
| • Information on the City | Summer 2012 |
| • Use of Social Media | Summer 2012, Ongoing |
| • Three Public Council District Meetings | Spring 2013 |
| • Plan Commission Public Open House | Spring 2013 |
| • Focus Groups Update Comprehensive Plan Chapters | Spring – Winter 2013 |
| • Neighborhood Profiles Creation | Winter 2014 – Fall 2015 |

In winter 2013 the City hired a consultant to complete an audit of the 2001 Comprehensive Plan and make recommendations for potential changes to its land use growth strategies, complete three neighborhood plans, and make recommendations for Comprehensive Plan policy updates as part of the Plan of Spokane, necessitating a revised schedule and approach for the review. Since that time the update was put on nominal hold while certain decisions were made and

further consideration of the scope and breadth of the update was completed. During that time the Link Spokane effort was initiated as well as the Integrated Transportation and City Utilities project. As a result, the original timeline presented in the revised Public Participation Plan requires further update.

The revised review schedule is as follows:

- Audit of Comprehensive Plan and Recommendations (COMPLETE) 3Q 2015
- Finalization of Neighborhood Profiles 2Q 2016
- Public Draft – Comprehensive Plan (Except Link Spokane) 3Q 2016
- Completion of Link Spokane 3Q 2016
- Public Open Houses (4 Total) 3Q 2016
- Plan Commission Workshops 4Q 2016
- Final Draft – Comprehensive Plan 1Q 2017
- City Council Work Sessions 1Q 2017
- City Council Hearing 2Q 2017
- Plan Adoption 2Q 2017

The City is managing the Link Spokane process separate but concurrent with the update of the remainder of the Comprehensive Plan. The City will package the completed products from these concurrent projects to complete the Comprehensive Plan update prior to the Plan Commission workshops.

C. METHODS AND TOOLS

The overall objective of this program is to describe how the City will engage the public during the course of the review. Public participation methods and tools may vary by type of activity. This Program may continue to be reviewed and refined throughout the review if needed.

While traditional methods (meetings, workshops, presentations, etc.) will still play an important role in public engagement, the City will use alternative participation tools to broaden outreach and disseminate information. Websites and social media will be used to share information throughout the review.

Some or all of the following methods will be used in one or more phases to achieve broad and continuous public participation.

Broad dissemination of background data and growth alternatives, proposals and alternatives:

- Documents such as the public participation program, draft and final Plans, draft and final environmental review documents, and other project materials will be posted on the website and made available at local libraries.
- Notice of the availability of the draft Plan will also be published in the Spokesman-Review (a newspaper of general circulation).
- The City will send information to the Plan Commission, regional and City agencies as appropriate and local and community-based organizations to extend outreach and

expand participation.

Opportunities for written comments:

- Online public feedback tools (Email, Website, and Facebook).
- Comment forms available at public meetings and hearings.

Public meetings after effective notice:

- General notice of the time and place of public meetings will be provided through standard notice procedures such as emails to project listserv and other related email lists.

Opportunities for open discussion:

- Online dialogue and interactive activities (via social media or website).
- Presentations to Community Assembly and other citizen groups.
- Public meetings, open houses, and presentations.
- Workshops with interested community or stakeholder groups.
- Youth engagement activity through partnerships.

Communication programs and information services:

- Website, Facebook page, Twitter
- Online narrated PowerPoint presentation to introduce the update on Website, Twitter, and Facebook
- Links to background reports, research and articles relevant to Comprehensive Plan Elements
- Press briefings for reporters and bloggers and press releases distributed to local community and ethnic media.

Consideration of and response to public comments:

- The City will consider public comments throughout the review.

CONCLUSION

This Program may be updated as conditions change or additional resources to support outreach activities become available. At a minimum, the Program will be updated quarterly. For more information on the update, please go to the City of Spokane Planning and Development Services website at www.spokaneplanning.org, Comprehensive Plan Update. To provide feedback on the Program, please contact the following City of Spokane Planning and Development Services staff:

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