Chapter 4 - Transportation

Purpose
The purpose of the Transportation Chapter is to:

- Recognize and establish an overarching vision and values for how Spokane residents envision the future transportation system.
- Address the needs of ALL transportation users, regardless of mode. Walking, biking, taking transit, freight, driving - these should all be real options for Spokane residents.
- Develop updated street design standards reflecting national best practices to better serve the residents of Spokane.
- Recognize and leverage the role transportation can play in creating a sense of place and improving quality of life.
- Provide guidance on how the city will identify and allocate taxpayer money to transportation projects.

Transportation System Vision

DRAFT Vision
Spokane will have a well-maintained multimodal transportation system that provides safe and efficient mobility for all, supports economic and community vitality, and promotes a healthy, livable community.

What’s New?
- The chapter has been streamlined, removing any redundancies and discussions that don’t directly inform the policies they concern. So, we have gone from 10 Goals and 86 Policies to 7 Goals and 23 Policies.
- The policies have been uncoupled from the Goal statements in recognition that every policy applies to multiple Goals.
- The relationship between this chapter and Chapter 5. Capital Facilities has been clarified and strengthened.

Integration
These days, “integration” sits at the center of the City’s approach to infrastructure projects. But what does that really mean? Consider a three-dimensional view of the street. Included in that view are those traditional surface transportation pieces like sidewalks, bike lanes, and vehicle travel lanes. But that view also includes below-ground connectivity for utilities—everything from water, sewer, and stormwater to natural gas, electricity, and telecommunications.

Under an integrated approach, the City now considers all the work that needs to be done along a street—above and below ground—and works that into a single project that is more affordable and best serves the surrounding land issues.

What are the DRAFT Goals of the Transportation Chapter?

Promote a Sense of Place
Promote a sense of community and identity through the provision of context-sensitive transportation choices and transportation design features, recognizing that both profoundly affect the way people interact and experience the city.

Provide Transportation Choices
Meet the city’s mobility needs by providing facilities for transportation options - including walking, bicycling, public transportation, private vehicles, and other choices.

Accommodate Access to Daily Needs and Priority Destinations
Promote land use patterns and construct transportation facilities and other urban features that advance Spokane’s quality of life.

Promote Economic Opportunity
Implement projects that support and facilitate economic vitality and opportunity in support of the City’s land use plan objectives.

Respect Natural & Community Assets
Protect natural, community, and neighborhood assets to create and connect places where people live their daily lives in a safe and healthy environment.

Enhance Public Health & Safety
Promote healthy communities by providing and maintaining a safe transportation system with viable active mode options that provides for the needs of all travelers, particularly the most vulnerable users.

Maximize Public Benefits and Fiscal Responsibility with Integration
Design and maintain a fiscally accountable, environmentally responsible, and socially equitable transportation system that serves its users through coordinated planning and budgeting with other partners and utilities.