REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
Agency and Interested City Department Review
City of Spokane Downtown Plan Update

DATE: April 13, 2021

TO: Interested Parties, City Departments
And Agencies with Jurisdiction.
(Distribution list on last page)

FROM: Nathan Gwinn, Assistant Planner
808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard
Spokane, WA 99201 or call (509) 625-6500 or 625-6893; email: ngwinn@spokanecity.org

SUBJECT: Spokane Downtown Plan Update

APPLICANT: City of Spokane

LOCATION: The new Spokane Downtown Plan document provides policy guidance for the City of Spokane 2021 Downtown Planning Area (a subarea of the Comprehensive Plan) and is effective area-wide. The new area incorporates the geographic area of both the 2008 Downtown Plan and the 2020 South University District Subarea Plan: Boone Ave to the north; Interstate 90 to the south; BNSF Railway/Maple St/Cedar St/Adams St to the west; parcels fronting Ruby St a parcel fronting North River Dr, the Spokane River, a line extended from Scott St, BNSF Railway, and Interstate 90 Exit 282 (Hamilton St interchange) westbound on-ramp to the east. Map attached to environmental checklist and available online at http://my.spokanecity.org/projects/downtown-plan-update/

REPORT NEEDED BY: 5 P.M. April 27, 2021. If additional information is required in order for your department or agency to comment on this proposal, please notify the Planning Services Department as soon as possible so that the application processing can be suspended while the necessary information is being prepared. Under the procedures of SMC 17G.060, this referral to affected departments and agencies is for the following:

1) The determination of a complete application. If there are materials that the reviewing departments and agencies need to comment on this proposal, notice of such must be provided to the applicant;

2) Provides notice of application;

3) Concurrency Testing, please note one of the following:
   a) ( ) This application is subject to concurrency and agency is required to notify this department that applicant meets/fails currency; OR
   b) ( X ) This application is exempt from concurrency testing, but will use capacity of existing facilities.

The lack of comment including concurrency by any referral agency will be considered acceptance of this application as technically complete and meeting concurrency requirements.

Under the revised procedures of SMC 17G.060, this referral to affected Departments and Agencies is to provide notice of a pending application. THIS WILL BE THE LAST NOTICE PROVIDED TO REFERRAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES UNLESS WARRANTED. If there are materials that the reviewing Departments and Agencies need to comment on this proposal, notice of such must be provided to the Applicant. The lack of comment by any referral agency will be considered to be acceptance of this application as Technically Complete.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Amendment of the Comprehensive Plan through repealing and replacing the 2008 Downtown Plan: Fast Forward Spokane: Downtown Plan Update. The new Spokane Downtown Plan is a component of the existing Comprehensive Plan when adopted by reference. The Spokane Downtown Plan includes a vision for future development and identifies five overarching goal categories, which contain specific policies and actions. The policies and actions set by the new subarea plan are consistent with the direction of the Comprehensive Plan. A separate environmental review is not required. Adoption of Comprehensive Plan amendments is a non-project action under SEPA and is not intended to satisfy individual project action SEPA requirements. All related documents may be viewed at the City of Spokane webpage for the proposal: http://my.spokanecity.org/projects/downtown-plan-update/

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW/ SEPA: The City of Spokane Planning Services Department is the Lead Agency for this proposal; Louis Meuler, Acting Director of Planning, is the responsible official. No determination has yet been made. This non-project proposal will be reviewed for compliance with SEPA Regulations, Spokane Municipal Code 17E.050. See attached SEPA Checklist.