

Planning Ahead

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Featuring Spokane County Planning Issues

February 2007

Capital Facilities Plan

ADOPTED



Spokane County first adopted its Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) in 2001 with conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan. The CFP was initially combined with the six-year financing plan, the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), as a single document. Since its adoption, those County departments that maintain and update a Capital Improvement Program have continued to do so, but the County has not adopted an updated CFP. On January 16, 2007, the Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing and approved the current Capital Facilities Plan to bring the County into compliance with Washington State's Growth Management Act.

By way of background the Planning Commission held a public hearing on October 26, 2006 to consider public testimony concerning the proposed update to the Capital Facilities Plan and the Commission at said public hearing extended the written comment period on the Capital Facilities Plan until November 1, 2006 at 12:00 p.m.

After considering all verbal and written public testimony, the Commission found that the Capital Facilities Plan represented the best information available at the time and that the update of the Capital Facilities Plan was necessary to demonstrate compliance with Spokane County's statutory requirements under the Growth Management Act (GMA) and for those reasons the Commission forwarded the Capital Facilities





Plan, without a specific recommendation. The Board of County Commissioners, considered the recommendation and adopted the current Capital Facilities Plan.

The Capital Facilities Plan (CFP)

The Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) identifies major public facilities provided directly by the County or by other public agencies (Fire Districts, Public Schools, Public Libraries, and Domestic Water Purveyors) serving unincorporated areas, such as water and sewer districts. To ensure that adequate levels of service are provided, Planners, Public Works Departments, and Finance officials work together to produce the CFP.

Identifying the County's infrastructure needs and searching for ways to finance them is an important part of the CFP. Financing strategies include deciding which of these needs are high priority, as well as identifying sources of additional funding, such as grants and bonds.



Capital Facilities Planning under the Growth Management Act

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires Cities and Counties to develop Capital Facilities Plans for public facilities needed to support growth. The goal is to coordinate development of new and expanded facilities with housing construction to insure that adequate facilities exist as they are needed. The CFP is an important element in Spokane County's Comprehensive Plan. The GMA requires that a CFP be consistent with all the other elements, or parts of the Comprehensive Plan, especially the land-use element.



Plan Update Marches Forward

Spokane County preliminarily approved an update to the Spokane County Comprehensive Plan. On November 28, 2006, the County Commissioners accepted the Planning Commission recommendation to update the text of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning code. A formal resolution by the Board of County Commissioners will be signed in the near future. The text changes update the County's plan ensuring that it meets the requirements of state law and changes to the plan include revisions related to the

incorporation of the Spokane Valley and other minor corrections and clarifications. Changes also include additional policies to protect airports and revisions to the process for redesignating agricultural resource lands. This planning effort, as required by state law, provides a blueprint for growth in the County and ensures efficient and well planned development.

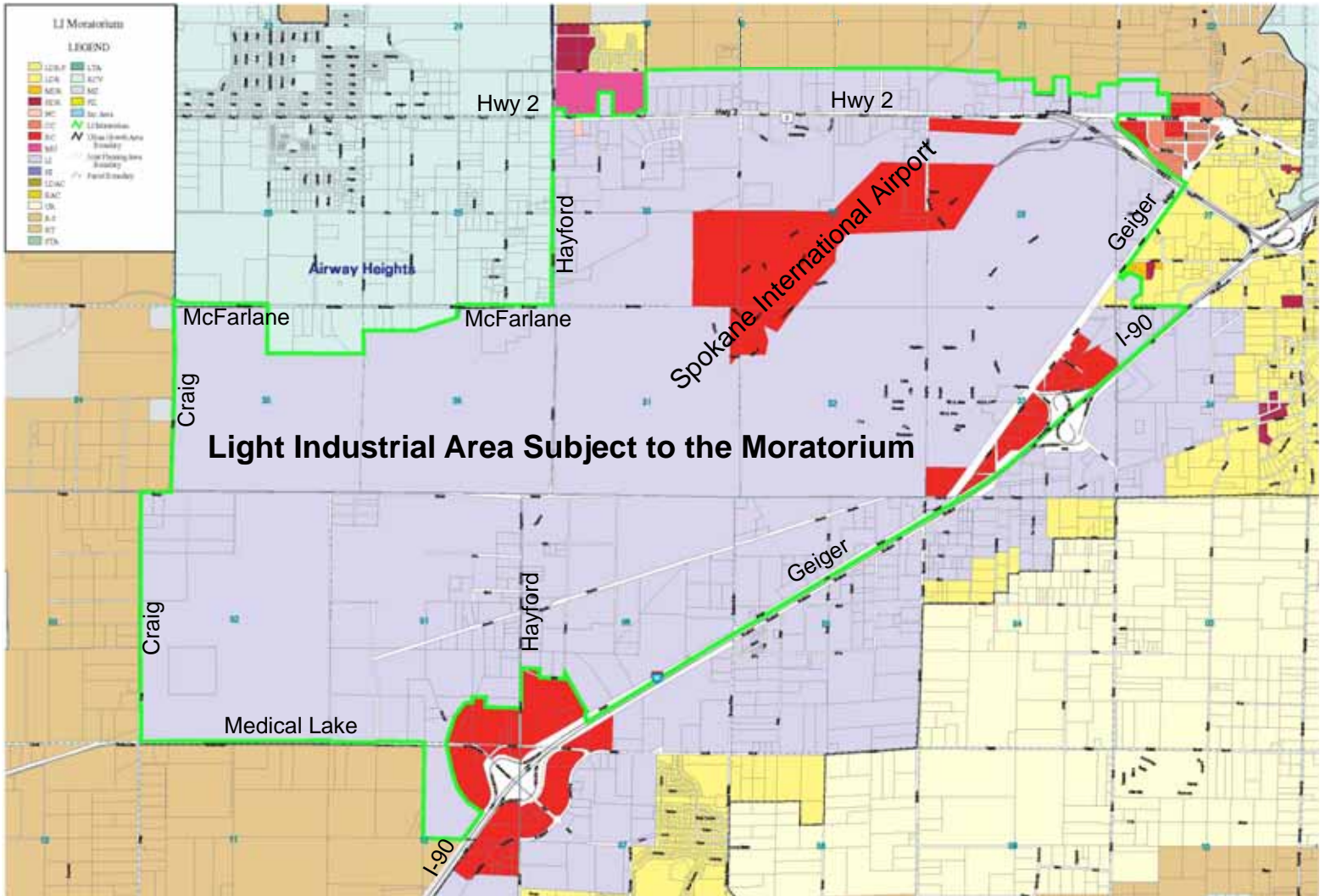


Questions?? Call Paul Jensen or Steve Davenport at 477-3675 or check our website at www.spokanecounty.gov/bp.



Light Industrial Moratorium

The Board of County Commissioners adopted a moratorium on October 3, 2006 (Resolution #6-0838) regarding the acceptance of various land use applications and building permit applications for residential development in the Light Industrial (LI) zone in the West Plains area. The Board held a public hearing on the moratorium on November 28, 2006 and affirmed the moratorium on December 12, 2006 (Resolution #6-0152), and set a hearing date for January 16, 2007 to consider proposed amendments to the moratorium. At the public hearing on January 16, the Board considered public testimony and set March 20, 2007 to consider further amendment to the moratorium, and directed staff to schedule public workshop(s) with the Board prior to the March 20, 2007 public hearing. To date, (workshop(s) with the Board have not been schedules and the moratorium adopted on October 3, 2006 was set to expire on March 3, 2007 unless renewed for another 6-month period. Therefore, the Board on February 20, 2007 considered and renewed the moratorium until August 2007. If you have any questions about the moratorium or the public hearing, please contact John Pederson at 477-3675.



Planning Commission

Public Meetings

The meetings are held in the Public Works Building at 1026 West Broadway, beginning at 9 a.m. The meeting dates are: March 22nd, and April 12th, 2007
Additional meetings may be scheduled

Planning Commission
meeting agendas are available on our website:
www.spokanecounty.org/bp



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This newsletter is produced by the Spokane County Building and Planning Department.

Address:
Department of Building and Planning
1026 West Broadway Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99260-0240
Phone:
(509) 477-3675
(509) 477-4703 *Fax*