



Spokane County

WASHINGTON

Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

Spokane County Planning Commission

www.spokanecounty.org/623/Planning-Commission

Commissioner's Hearing Room, Lower Level, Public Works Building

Attachments: (Click the Following Links for Review)

[Agenda](#)

[Legal Notice](#)

[Minutes \(April 13, 2023\)](#)

[Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Summary](#)

[Draft Spokane County Pedestrian Plan](#)

[Draft Spokane County Bicycle Master Plan](#)

Public and Zoom Webinar Information

Public Comments may be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. The Planning Commission reserves the right to adjust the time frame allotted to speakers. Chat functions are not recognized for commenting—please use the web link.

For additional assistance contact us at <https://www.spokanecounty.org/5175/Planning-Commission-News>, by calling 509-477-3675, or by emailing planningcommission@spokanecounty.org.

All public hearings are conducted in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, Public Works Bldg. 1026 W. Broadway, Spokane, WA. Facilities are physically accessible for individuals with disabilities.

Questions or special needs may be directed to Elya Miroshin at emiroschin@spokanecounty.org or by calling (509) 477-7139.

Webinar Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81213204662?pwd=dVd5aFZGaVRlNUhvQ2ltVUhhUZWZqZz09>

Telephone: 1-253-215-8782 (toll free) | Meeting ID: 812 1320 4662 | Passcode: 576418



Spokane County

WASHINGTON

AGENDA

Chair Stephen Pohl, Vice Chair Pete Rayner, Clyde Haase, Wayne Brokaw,
Melissa Wittstruck, Logan Camporeale, Alan Nolan

Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

Spokane County Planning Commission

www.spokanecounty.org/623/Planning-Commission

Commissioner's Hearing Room, Lower Level, Public Works Building

*The public may participate in person or remotely utilizing web
and telephone conference links.*

Individuals are limited to one, three-minute comment period during the meeting.

Please keep your comments specific to the current agenda item.

"Chat" is not supported.

Call to Order 9:00am

Open Forum *Public comment on any item not on the Planning Commission agenda*

Public Hearing: Spokane County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to take public testimony, deliberate, and discuss initiating an amendment to the Spokane County Comprehensive Plan. The commission will be hearing the following items: The Spokane County Pedestrian Master Plan, and The Spokane County Bicycle Master Plan.

Workshop: Discuss the Land Quantity Analysis, Land Capacity Analysis, and growth patterns as tools for evaluating the sufficiency of the Spokane County Urban Growth Area.

Minutes: April 13, 2023

Housekeeping: Staff Report

Next Meetings: May 25, 2023; June 15, 2023

Spokane County Department of Building & Planning

SPOKANE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Spokane County Planning Commission pursuant to Chapter 36.70 and 36.70A RCW, that a public hearing with a virtual participation option, will be held in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, Lower Level, Public Works Building, located at 1026 W. Broadway, Spokane, WA on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will also be available via Zoom at:

Webinar Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81213204662?pwd=dVd5aFZGaVRlNUhvQ2ltVUhUZWZqZz09>

Telephone: 1-253-215-8782 (toll free)

- Meeting ID: 812 1320 4662
- Passcode: 576418

PUBLIC HEARING: Spokane County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to take public testimony, deliberate, and discuss initiating an amendment to the Spokane County Comprehensive Plan. The commission will be hearing the following items:

Pedestrian Master Plan: The Spokane County Pedestrian Master Plan would be intended to be a guiding document for the improvement and increased connectivity of the pedestrian network within Spokane County. The goals and policies within this plan are intended to facilitate a pedestrian network that is well-connected, safe, and enjoyable for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. The Plan would aim to increase the number of pedestrian trips countywide using nonmotorized travel, improve pedestrian safety, improve health of residents, and increase accessibility to essential services and community destinations.

Bicycle Master Plan: The Spokane County Bicycle Master Plan would be intended to guide bikeway facility policies, the planning and development of existing and future bicycle networks, and ultimately increase the number of people that bike in Spokane County. The Plan aims to provide a vision for a safe, connected, and an integrated bicycling network that encourages active transportation and ensures biking as a feasible mode of transportation.

WORKSHOP: Spokane County Planning Commission will conduct a workshop to discuss the Land Quantity Analysis, Land Capacity Analysis, and growth patterns as tools for evaluating the sufficiency of the Spokane County Urban Growth Area.

Spokane County Planning Commission

Thursday, May 11, 2023 -- 09:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Public Comments may be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. The Planning Commission reserves the right to adjust the time frame allotted to speakers. Chat functions are not recognized for commenting. Comments on these items may be made anytime at the Building & Planning web page (<https://www.spokanecounty.org/5175/Planning-Commission-News>).

2023 Planning Commission Schedule:

May 25, 2023

June 15, 2023

July 13, 2023

August 17, 2023

September 14, 2023

October 12, 2023

November 16, 2023

December 14, 2023

June 29, 2022

July 27, 2023

August 31, 2023

September 28, 2023

October 26, 2023

For additional assistance contact us at <https://www.spokanecounty.org/5175/Planning-Commission-News> by calling 509-477-3675, or by emailing planningcommission@spokanecounty.org. All public meetings are conducted in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, Public Works Bldg., 1026 W. Broadway, Spokane, WA. Facilities are physically accessible for individuals with disabilities. Questions or special needs may be directed to Elya Miroshin at emiroshin@spokanecounty.org or by calling 509-477-7139.

DATED THIS APRIL 26, 2023, SPOKANE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND PLANNING



**SPOKANE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
April 13, 2023**

Planning Commission Members Present	Spokane County Department of Building and Planning Staff Present
Stephen Pohl, Chair Pete Rayner, Vice Chair Wayne Brokaw Melissa Wittstruck Alan Nolan	Robert Brock, AICP, Planner Saegen Neiman, Planner Elya Miroshin, Clerk Scott Chesney, AICP, Planning Director

The April 13, 2023, meeting of the Spokane County Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Stephen Pohl at 9:00 A.M. A quorum was present. The meeting was accessible to the public in the Commissioner’s Hearing Room, Lower Level, Public Works Building, located at 1026 West Broadway Avenue, Spokane, WA, and via Zoom with web and telephone links provided on the Building and Planning website and in a public notice published in the Spokesman Review on April 4, 2023.

Public Comment opened for items that are not on the agenda: No comments were made; public comment was closed.

Chairman Pohl opened a public hearing to initiate a mandated three-year notice of the Urban Growth Area review for the 2026 Comprehensive Plan periodic update:

Mr. Chesney presented a map of the Spokane County Urban Growth Areas including Joint Planning Areas stating that a full formal intergovernmental joint planning effort will take in effect moving forward.

Public Comment: Mr. Nolan asked the scope of how the land designations will be regulated through this process. Mr. Chesney replied that this will be an analysis of existing zoning of residential and non-residential categories, assessing what’s left, what has not yet been developed while anticipating future population numbers. Mr. Nolan had a follow-up question if the Planning Commission members will have a discussion further along regarding current density goals. Mr. Chesney confirmed the Planning Commission will have many such discussions and that we will be receiving guidance from the BoCC (Board of County Commissioners).

Ms. Wittstruck asked if Spokane County will be looking at where it is currently out of compliance and where it will be out of compliance once new regulations are in place by the legislature. Mr. Chesney said that we have been working on satisfying the elements of the Settlement Agreement for the past two years with several pending cases left. Being out of compliance does not constrain how Spokane County moves forward with the Urban Growth Area analysis as this analysis is part of the 2026 periodic update.

Mr. Rayner asked the question of how the Land Quantity Analysis will address an increase in density on lots which inhibit the need for more land while the people are stating that they don't have enough land available on the market further affecting housing prices. Mr. Chesney responded that the UGA assessment will incorporate market analysis into the equation and will account for density changes from this legislature.

Paul Kropp likes the map presented portraying the Urban Growth Areas.

Without objection, Chairman Pohl closed the public hearing.

Motion: Mr. Nolan made a motion to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners the initiation of the three-year Urban Growth Area study in the anticipation of the 2026 Comprehensive Plan periodic update; seconded by Ms. Wittstruck.

- Discussion opened. Mr. Nolan made a comment that throughout the process, we should remember to classify land that would enhance the flexibility of individual landowners allowing them help decide the highest and best purpose of their land based on economic conditions and the demand in the market. Mr. Nolan brought up his own personal experiences as a business owner as an example.
- Motion carried unanimously.

Workshop:

Mr. Chesney provided the Planning Commission members with a road map including different phases that will help guide Spokane County through the Comprehensive Plan Update with the target date being June 30, 2026. Phase one goals include establishing a planning studio, assessing growth patterns, collecting inventory of remaining available land for development, and creating preliminary 2026 Plan chapters focusing on electronic accessibility. Phase two goals include gathering data for population projections and market assessment, and crafting Plan chapters. Phase three goals include detailed analysis for GMA elements and public meetings/workshops showing the chapters as an initial Plan. Phase four goals include refining the chapters, coordinating with partners and stakeholders, and having the final draft Plan. Lastly, starting year 2026 with refining the Plan, asking for consideration from Commerce, Planning Commission and ending with the Board of County Commissioners consideration on or before June 30, 2026.

Ms. Wittstruck appreciates the virtual public participation aspects but is asking what happens to public with limited access to computers while ensuring diversity. Mr. Chesney said there is no easy answer and that a strategy will need to be figured out on how to reach out beyond the usual organizations. Mr. Rayner voiced a similar concern of how to make in-person opportunities happen in a manageable way. Mr. Chesney had a few ideas such as professional media support, newsletters, articles in paper, mass

mailings, or a quarterly printed sheet. Spokane County is committed to the updated Public Participation Guidelines from last year.

Some state funding for the update had been granted by the Department of Commerce. Mr. Brokaw asks of staff to continue good communication with the Planning Commission members to help continue their availability and involvement assuring the public of their participation throughout the update.

Discussion:

In response to Mr. Camporeale's request from March 30, 2023, public hearing, the Planning Commission members ensued a discussion of meeting times that work best in favor of public, staff, and members agreeing on importance of further looking into opportunities of evening meeting options. Mr. Chesney also reminded of public ability to access meeting recordings if missed as well as a place on the WEB for commenting on agenda items. Paul Kropp reminded all how the meetings in the past did used to start at 2 PM and suggested we look at surrounding jurisdictions and their choices of times for meetings as such.

Staff Report:

April 27, 2023, meeting has been canceled. Next meeting date is scheduled for May 11, 2023.

Motion: Chairman Pohl entertained a motion to adopt the Planning Commission minutes from March 30, 2023; so moved by Mr. Nolan; seconded by Ms. Wittstruck. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Pohl entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting; so moved by Mr. Brokaw; seconded by Mr. Rayner; the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:12 A.M.

Elya Miroshin, Clerk

Stephen Pohl, Chair _____ Date _____



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

DATE: April 13, 2023
TO: Spokane County Planning Commission
FROM: Jami Hayes
REGARDING: Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

Summary for the Pedestrian Master Plan

Walkable communities are desirable, and walking is a healthy and affordable option that can be easily integrated into everyday life when walking feels safe, and destinations are easily accessible. The Spokane County Pedestrian Master Plan is intended to be a guiding document for the improvement and increased connectivity of the pedestrian network within Spokane County. The goals and policies within this plan are intended to facilitate a pedestrian network that is well connected, safe, and enjoyable for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. The Plan aims to increase the number of pedestrian trips countywide using nonmotorized travel, improve pedestrian safety, improve health of residents, and increase accessibility to essential services and community destinations. Implementation of this Plan is intended to work within the framework of other supporting Spokane County documents and programs such as the Complete Streets Ordinance, the Transportation Element, Bicycle Master Plan, and the Comprehensive Plan to support active transportation within Spokane County.

The goals of the Plan are as follows:

Goal 1: Improve pedestrian safety

Goal 2: Provide a connected network of pedestrian sidewalks, trails, and pathways in the County that are safe, ADA Accessible, and encourage multimodal transportation options to a variety of users

Goal 3: Improve the health of county residents through walking

Summary for the Bicycle Master Plan

The Spokane County Bicycle Master Plan is intended to guide bikeway facility policies, the planning and development of existing and future bicycle networks, and ultimately increase the number of people that bike in Spokane County. The Plan aims to provide a vision for a safe, connected, and an integrated bicycling network that encourages active transportation and ensures biking as a feasible mode of transportation. The Plan evaluates important land uses in connection to the bicycle transportation network to analyze gaps, increase connectivity, improve safety, and improve health. The Plan evaluates high crash density locations so that over time, active transportation facilities can be upgraded as part of development approval and county facility planning.

This plan focuses on four key goals:

Goal 1) improve bicycle safety in Spokane County,

Goal 2) increase connectivity and expand the amount of low-stress bicycling facilities over time,

Goal 3) provide equal access to bicycle facilities for all members of the community, and

Goal 4) improve transportation options for Spokane County residents.