

CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2010

PLANNING AHEAD

City and University District Move Forward With Plans and Projects

The University District strategic master plan. *Downtown Plan Update.* Campus master plan update. Plans abound for various geographic areas that overlap—sometimes it requires yet another plan to draw the threads together. Several planning efforts and construction projects getting under way this spring address transportation, connectivity and neighborhood vitality on and around the Riverpoint Campus.

East Sprague/South University District Redevelopment Plan

Purpose: To improve transportation and energy efficiency along the Sprague Corridor while examining land use planning implementation of the south University District based on the *Downtown Plan Update* and UD Master Plan 2004. Funded with federal stimulus dollars, this effort will run through summer 2010.

University District Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge
Purpose: Increase pedestrian/bicycle access across the BNSF railroad line on the south edge of the Riverpoint Campus; incentivize

private development and revitalization of the south University District. A federal appropriation has funded the first phase just now getting under way, in which the scope, size and location of the bridge will be determined.

Transit Alternatives Analysis

Purpose: Identify existing and desired transit patterns in the greater downtown area to create an efficient transit network to be defined by route, access, frequency, and mode.

Division Street Corridor Planning

Purpose: Planning for the corridor as a gateway to the city and as a traffic calming zone to mitigate high-volume traffic, with an emphasis on streetscape and pedestrian improvements. This will be funded by University District Revitalization Area dollars.

Public Improvement Construction Projects
These include the Iron Bridge rehabilitation (RFQ going out in June for this new bike/pedestrian connection on the

Centennial Trail east of campus over the Spokane River); Riverside Extension Phase I (groundbreaking in June with completion expected in 2011) and Phase 2 (planned for 2012); Spokane Falls Boulevard from Division to Sherman (planned for 2011); and a major reconstruction of Second Avenue from Sunset Blvd. to Arthur (beginning this summer) that will include the addition of bike lanes.

WSU Biomedical and Health Sciences Building

The Biomedical & Health Sciences Building (HSB) will house research space, labs, a vivarium, classrooms and faculty offices for health sciences research and teaching. NBBJ Architects was selected in 2009 to design the building as the first phase of a multi-phase research complex. Tripp Umbach consulting agency is currently conducting an economic impact study to identify the effects a four year medical school will have on the local economy.

-Barb Chamberlain, WSU Spokane



RIVERSIDE EXTENSION UPDATE

The City of Spokane is in the final stages of right of way acquisition before beginning construction of the new Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Once acquisition is complete, the City will move forward with demolition of the warehouses currently located on the southeast corner of Riverside and Division. While no start date has been identified, City of Spokane officials have previously stated that construction will begin this summer.

The road extension is intended to address pedestrian safety issues by routing arterial traffic away from Spokane Falls Boulevard which runs through the center of the Riverpoint campus. East and westbound traffic will travel along the new boulevard defined by its "complete streets" elements including bike lanes, street trees, wide sidewalks, and an elevated median.

A second phase of the extension planned for 2012 will travel south of the Spokane River under the Hamilton Street Bridge carrying traffic to Trent Avenue near the Union Gospel Mission. The final phase of the project will allow north/south access along Eerie Street underneath the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks. That phase is currently unfunded.



A BOARD IS BORN

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION FORMALIZES

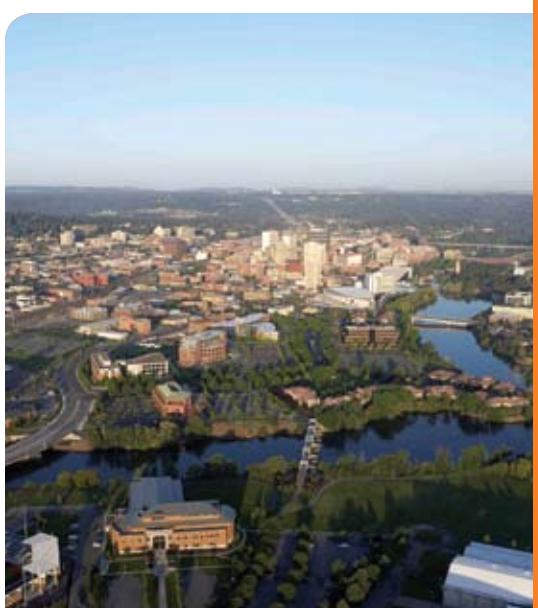
After a public call for applications, a University District Advisory Council selection committee chose the 14 members of the University District Development Association (UDDA) Board of Directors. The new Board worked to secure a legal status as a 501 c 3 tax exempt nonprofit organization, and quickly formed bylaws and policies that enable it to represent University District (UD) interests, prioritize UD projects, and create development opportunities within the UD.

The UDDA Board of Directors was formed to represent a strong cross section of the existing entities and individuals within the UD: the Mayor of Spokane, City of Spokane staff, the universities, as well as businesses and local property owners. The Board also draws from local experts in transportation, land use law, economic development, and commercial real estate. Combined, the Board is well positioned to ensure momentum and development in the district.

The UD began years ago as an initiative to promote economic development through higher education collaboration on the outskirts of downtown Spokane. From the beginning it functioned as a strong grass-roots campaign involving local property owners and university representatives. That group helped create the 2004 Strategic Master Plan and laid out a vision for the future of the UD; a live/learn/work/play confluence of innovation, discovery, entrepreneurship, scholarship, and neighborhood development that provides an ongoing stream of economic growth and business opportunity for the region.

That vision has created a momentum in the UD proven to incite action; the City of Spokane has implemented Local Revitalization Financing (LRF) to help fund public improvements in the UD, developers are implementing innovative projects, and investors are anticipating new opportunities. As a result, people are talking about what is going on in the UD.

Increased activity in the UD has also increased the complexity of the issues being dealt with. As an informal grass-roots organization, the UD was not structured to address funding mechanisms, policy decisions, nor legalities. Recognizing the need for formal UD representation able to contract with the City of Spokane, apply for grants, and define the role of the UD as it relates to development initiatives, the UD membership took action to formalize.



UNIVERSITY DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Sheila Collins
City of Spokane

Marty Dickinson
Downtown Spokane Partnership

Dr. Rex Fuller
Eastern Washington University Spokane

Kim Pearman-Gillman
McKinstry

Rich Hadley
Greater Spokane Incorporated

Taidd Hume
Foster Pepper PLLC

Dr. Gary Livingston
Community Colleges of Spokane

Mike Livingston
Kiemle & Hagood

Dr. Thayne McCulloh
Gonzaga University

Karl Otterstrom
Spokane Transit Authority

Dr. Brian Pitcher
Washington State University Spokane

Steve Trabun
Avista Utilities

Mayor Mary Verner
City of Spokane

Kim Zentz
Sirti

ON THE GO!
UNIVERSITY DISTRICT
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE:
Type, Size, & Location Study

In late April, the Spokane City Council approved the contract to officially hire the Portland office of KPFF Consulting Engineers to implement the Type, Size, and Location (TS&L) study that will initiate the evolution of the University District Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge. The bridge was identified as a priority project in the 2004 University District Strategic Master Plan and is planned to span the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks to connect the northern and southern portions of the University District.

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued by the City of Spokane in late 2009 identified increased bicycle and pedestrian safety, increased transportation alternatives, and economic development as key functions of the proposed bridge. A selection committee chose KPFF and its sub-consultants from a pool of eight proposals.

KPFF has significant experience designing and implementing bicycle and pedestrian bridges, including bridges that span the ever-challenging railroad right of way. KPFF also selected a number of sub-consultants, some local, to assist in the TS&L study. Among KPFF and its sub-consultants, a public advisory committee appointed by Mayor Verner will participate throughout the 18 month process to ensure adequate public participation.

The goal of the TS&L study is to identify and assess all factors that will affect the construction of the bridge including such things as: rock and soil depth and type, environmental concerns, right of way issues, engineering and design costs, construction costs, and intended uses for the bridge, among other factors.

The timeline for the TS&L study is 18 months and is scheduled to begin in May 2010.

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Current Student Enrollment

Eastern Washington University Spokane

2550 Students

Gonzaga University

7319 Students

Washington State University Spokane

1580 Students

Whitworth University

70 Students

Contact

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Thank you for supporting the University District

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Avista

Baker Construction

City of Spokane

Contract Design Associates

Downtown Spokane Partnership

Eastern Washington University

Gonzaga University

Greater Spokane Incorporated

Inland Northwest Health Services

Schade Tower

Sirti

STCU (Spokane Teachers Credit Union)

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