



July 7-8 Spokane, WA

“The East Central Neighborhood deserves to rise from a place of last resort to a place of choice.”

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The I-90 was constructed through the heart of Spokane, bisecting the historic working-class neighborhood of East Central Spokane and siphoning energy from East Sprague Avenue, which runs parallel to the highway. Furthermore, the under-construction US 395 / North Spokane Corridor project, located nearby, is slated to connect directly to I-90. The City and the neighborhood anticipate that this technical assistance will serve as an integrator to bring together those affected by the existing I-90 corridor and the new US 395 to generate solutions that will maximize connectivity while minimizing transportation infrastructure barriers.

CURRENT CONDITION

The focus of this workshop is the completion of the new U.S. 395 / North Spokane Corridor and its connection to the Interstate 90 corridor, which is a four- to six-lane multi-modal limited-access highway corridor project. Visioning will focus on the new multi-modal North Spokane Corridor, currently being redesigned from its initial 1997 project concept, which relied on outdated standards and included disruptive housing removal procedures.

The workshop will explore how the North Spokane Corridor could connect to existing and proposed transportation facilities and the existing Interstate 90 corridor that bisects the East Central Neighborhood adjacent to Downtown Spokane. The community hopes to mitigate adverse affects from the new highway interchange while increasing connectivity along I-90.

East Sprague Avenue, which runs parallel to I-90, has seen decades of disinvestment since the construction of I-90. Thankfully, this is changing. The East Sprague section of the neighborhood is in the process of upgrading lighting (street, underpass, and alleyway) along the corridor. The neighborhood also received technical assistance in 2015 from Smart Growth America that focused on the City's East Central Neighborhood and Sprague Avenue Streetscape project. That initiative demonstrates that local leaders and residents care about creating meaningful connections, neighborhood pride, progress, and higher quality-of-life within the community.

PROJECT GOALS

Vacant Land Reuse

The initial design parameters and footprint for U.S. 395 / North Spokane Corridor have been scaled down from the 1997 EIS proposal, leaving large areas of vacant land where affordable housing once stood. Generating ideas for how to use these vacant half-blocks, which run 1.5 miles along the length of the corridor, would help neighborhood leaders and residents envision a positive future.

Bike/Pedestrian Facilities

The new bicycle and pedestrian facilities that make up the Children of the Sun trail, which will run adjacent to U.S. 395, and the new corridor's interchange with Interstate 90 are both slated for redesigns to reflect neighborhood context and funding parameters. Spokane currently has an extensive trail system in place and would like it to grow in connectivity, quality, and usage.

Safe, Attractive Overpasses

Neighborhood residents want to provide input on the placement and design of the three replacement pedestrian overpasses that will cross I-90, which could be altered to better serve pedestrians and cyclists. The vision should include overpasses that are well-located, attractive, and safe.

Improved Transit Connections

A high-performance transit system is currently in development in order to provide higher levels of service for the East Sprague Corridor. The community would like input on how to connect residents south of I-90 with the newly enhanced transit services.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Liberty Park, the oldest and one of the most elaborate Frederick Law Olmsted-designed parks in the city—and perhaps the most popular source of recreation for East Central residents—was destroyed in 1968 when the construction of I-90 took 26 of its 28 acres.