

**SEPA DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS).  
WAC 197-11-970**

**Description of proposal:** Spokane Transit Authority's *STA Moving Forward: A plan for more and better transit* is an implementation action plan for Connect Spokane, STA's comprehensive plan. It contains 30 projects designed to provide more and better transit service in the region. The proposed amendments revise the target year for completion for one project to recognize an earlier service implementation, recalibrates the scope of improvements on service for one project and provides greater specificity and revises the sequence/scope of one project.

Copies of this document are available for public inspection beginning May 1 at: Spokane Transit Authority, Administrative Office, North Side, Second Floor, 1230 West Boone Avenue, Spokane, Washington, 99201, or visit [www.spokanetransit.com](http://www.spokanetransit.com).

**Proponent:** Spokane Transit Authority

**Location of proposal, including street address, if any:** Public Transportation Benefit Area of Spokane

**Lead agency:** Spokane Transit Authority

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c). This decision was made after reviewing a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

.. There is no comment period for this DNS.

.. This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. There is no further comment period on the DNS.

Q This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by June 18, 2024

**Responsible official:** Brian Jennings

**Position/title:** Deputy Director for Community Development

**Email:** [bjennings@spokanetransit.com](mailto:bjennings@spokanetransit.com)

**Phone:** 509-344-1862

**Address:** 1230 W. Boone Ave. Spokane, WA 99201

Signature: **Brian Jennings**

Date: June 3, 2024

# SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## ***Purpose of checklist:***

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

## **A. Background**

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **2024 STA Moving Forward Amendment**
2. Name of applicant: **Spokane Transit**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:  
**Brian Jennings**  
**1230 West Boone**  
**Spokane, WA 99201**  
**Phone: 509.344.1862**  
**Email: [bjennings@spokanetransit.com](mailto:bjennings@spokanetransit.com)**
4. Date checklist prepared: **May 31, 2024**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Spokane Transit**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **The STA Moving Forward Amendment is proposed for adoption on June 20, 2024.**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.  
**No**
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.  
**There is no environmental information that has been prepared for this proposal. Environmental information will be prepared as appropriate for the projects and service changes that are proposed in the plan.**
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.  
**STA Moving Forward identifies specific capital projects. Grant applications and development permits will be sought for some of the capital projects that are included in the plan.**
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.  
**Approval of the Spokane Transit Board of Directors is needed.**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.

**Spokane Transit Authority's STA Moving Forward: A plan for more and better transit is an implementation action plan for Connect Spokane, STA's comprehensive plan. It contains 30 projects designed to provide more and better transit service in the region. The proposed amendment impacts 3 of the projects.**

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

**The proposal directly affects all areas within the Public Transit Benefit Area (PTBA). The boundary for the PTBA is located entirely within Spokane County and includes the City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley, Airway Heights, Medical Lake, Cheney, Liberty Lake, Millwood and portions of unincorporated Spokane County.**

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

### **1. Earth**

a. General description of the site  
(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

## **2. Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

## **3. Water**

a. Surface Water:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

4. **Plants**

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

\_\_\_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

\_\_\_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

\_\_\_ shrubs

\_\_\_ grass

\_\_\_ pasture

\_\_\_ crop or grain

\_\_\_ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

\_\_\_ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

\_\_\_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

\_\_\_ other types of vegetation

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

## 5. Animals

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other \_\_\_\_\_

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

## 6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?

List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

## 7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.  
**N/A**
- 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.  
**N/A**
- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.  
**N/A**
- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:  
**N/A**

## b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

## 8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides,

tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

c. Describe any structures on the site.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

## 9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:



**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

#### 10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

#### 11. Light and glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

#### 12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

#### 13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

#### 14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

**15. Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

**16. Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

**N/A - This is a non-project action.**

**C. Signature**

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Brian Jennings

Name of signee: Brian Jennings

Position and Agency/Organization: Deputy Director for Community Development

Date Submitted: 06/03/2024

**D. Supplemental sheet for non-project actions**

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

**The proposal is not likely to significantly increase discharge to water, emissions to air, production, storage or release of toxic, hazardous substances or production of noise.**

**The intent of the plan is to accommodate the travel needs of a growing population within Spokane County. Transit service can reduce the increased automobile congestion that can be associated with population growth. Planned transit improvements are anticipated to result in reduced overall transportation related emissions to air by mitigating traffic congestion. The transit improvements proposed by the Plan may also decrease stormwater discharges by decreasing the need for**

increased impervious surfaces in the form of automobile parking and new vehicle lanes.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

**The capital improvement projects identified will be reviewed at the time of building permit and will comply with the *Spokane County Regional Stormwater Manual*.**

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?  
**No significant impacts to plants, animals, fish and marine life are anticipated. Project level review will be completed at the time of building permit for the proposed capital improvements.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

**Capital projects are subject to the critical area ordinances of the local jurisdictions in which they will be located.**

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?  
**The proposal is not likely to deplete energy or natural resources.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

**Spokane Transit strives to conserve energy and natural resources consistent with the Sustainability Principles of *Connect Spokane: A Comprehensive Plan for Public Transportation*.**

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?  
**No impacts to sensitive protected areas are anticipated.**

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

**No measures are proposed as no impacts are anticipated.**

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?  
**Consistent with *Connect Spokane: A Comprehensive Plan for Public Transportation*, the services and improvements included are designed to support the land use plans of the local jurisdictions that Spokane Transit serves.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

**None proposed.**

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?  
**The proposal is not anticipated to significantly increase demands on public services or utilities.**

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

**No measures are proposed as no impacts are anticipated.**

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

**This plan does not conflict with local, state or federal laws.**