

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: **Connect 2035 Strategic Action Plan**
2. Name of applicant: **Spokane Transit**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
Brian Jennings
701 W Riverside Ave
Spokane, WA 99201

509.344.1862
4. Date checklist prepared: **November 6, 2024**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Spokane Transit**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **The strategic action plan is proposed for adoption on December 18, 2024**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **Updates to appendices may occur**
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.**
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. **There are no applications related to this proposal that are pending approval.**
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 required.**
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. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Connect 2035 articulates Spokane Transit Authority’s strategic roadmap for bus, paratransit, and rideshare services through 2035, with a clear vision supported by goals and performance measures. It builds on the successes of our previous strategic plan, STA Moving Forward, to address emerging needs and continued investment in equity, sustainability, and community growth. Ultimately, it enables STA to identify priorities for the next 10 years and beyond – all while building and strengthening relationships with and within the community.

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 area within the 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: **N/A - This is a non-project action.**

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:

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

___ 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

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

Examples include:

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

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

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

- 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 - This is a non-project action.**

- 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 - This is a non-project action.**

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 - This is a non-project action.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

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

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

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

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 reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: **N/A - This is a non-project action.**

9. Housing [\[help\]](#)

- 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 [\[help\]](#)

- 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 [\[help\]](#)

- 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** [\[help\]](#)

- 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** [\[help\]](#)

- 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? 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** [\[help\]](#)

- 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** [\[help\]](#)

- 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** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)
 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 [\[help\]](#)

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:



Name of signee: Brian Jennings

Position and Agency/Organization: Deputy Director for Community Development, Spokane
Transit Authority

Date Submitted: 11/6/2024

D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[help\]](#)

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

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 increase discharge to water, emissions to air, production, storage or release of toxic, hazardous substances or production of noise. The intent of *Connect 2035* is to improve access to transit. Improving access to transit can reduce automobile congestion and related emissions to air. The transit improvements 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:

No measures are proposed and no impacts are anticipated.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Not determined for non-project action.

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

No measures are proposed and no impacts are anticipated.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The intent of this plan is not to deplete energy or natural resources. Included in the plan are policies that support exploring and implementing alternative energy sources, and using energy more efficiently.

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

No measures are proposed and no impacts are anticipated.

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?

Not determined for non-project action.

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

No measures are proposed and 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?

Not determined for non-project action.

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

No measures are proposed and no impacts are anticipated.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

The proposal is not anticipated to increase demands on public services or utilities. The proposed changes may lead to improvements to transit service that would reduce demands on transportation and security services.

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

No measures are proposed and 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.