

# What is WSDOT doing to include and engage EJ communities – agency-wide policies and project actions

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# What we'll cover today

- WSDOT's Agency-wide efforts related to Environmental Justice, Title VI, and Inclusion - Earl
- Project delivery focus – Carol Lee
- Community Engagement during planning and design – Char



# THE STATE'S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK IS A CONNECTED SYSTEM THAT MUST SERVE MANY MODES AND USERS



**18,700**  
Highway lane miles  
**308**  
HOV lane miles



**16**  
WSDOT-operated airports



**3,344**  
state-owned bridges



**125\***  
miles dedicated bike lanes  
**405**  
miles of sidewalk within/adjacent  
to WSDOT right-of-way



**22**  
Ferries  
**24.3 million**  
passengers per year



**333**  
miles Amtrak Cascades  
**802,000**  
annual passengers



**32**  
Transit systems

**298**  
miles WSDOT-owned shortline  
freight railroad

\*Most sidewalks/bike lanes are controlled by locals

# Inclusion is central to our agency's strategic plan

WSDOT is:

- Building the agency's cultural competence
- Providing fair and equal opportunities to participate in WSDOT employment, contracts, and decision making
- Making sure that every voice is heard



# Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956



# Highway revolts inform the NEED for a National Environmental Policy

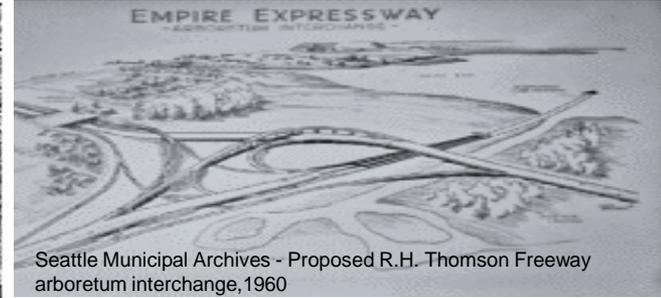


Freeway protesters in City Hall San Francisco (c.1960)

Resulted in Federal & State Environmental Laws to require public review, protect the environment and increase public health – 1970's NEPA, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and others.



Save the Arboretum rally, May 4, 1969<sup>10</sup>



Seattle Municipal Archives - Proposed R.H. Thomson Freeway arboretum interchange, 1960

1960's plan to connect SR 520 to I-90 via Arboretum



Environmental Justice EO, 1994  
(Limited English EO signed in 2000)

# Move to a Cleaner, Safer, Healthier Network

## WSDOT plays a lead role

- Multimodal network connections (ferries, rail, transit, freight)
- Reduce congestion (Incident response, fix bottlenecks, ramp metering, tolling)
- Vessel Emissions reductions (cleaner ferries and state-owned fleet)
- Active Transportation (walking, biking)

## Local & State Partnership

- Land use, managed growth
- transportation planning
- Mode shift and reduce demand
- Regional air pollution controls

## Federal Controlled

- Auto Fuel Efficiency Standards (Tailpipe)
- Alternative Fuels
- Funding and regulations

**Transportation Matters**

**Economy**

- Washington is one of the most trade-centric states in the nation

**Quality of life**

- Affordable housing
- Public health
- Access to nature, recreation

**Social equity**

- Percentage of family income spent on transportation highest for the least well off
- Approximately 20% of Washingtonians don't hold a driver's license
- Transit and active transportation investments provide access to opportunity

STATE OF TRANSPORTATION - WSDOT 1/15/20

ROGER MILLAR  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, WSDOT  
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.LEG.WA.GOV](http://WWW.LEG.WA.GOV)

<https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/> -- See link at bottom right on our home page

# WSDOT's Priorities Today



South Park Bridge replacement, 2011

- **Practical Solutions**

- understanding communities needs is the foundation of our project decisions

- **Principles of Community Engagement**

- strengthen partnerships to increase trust and inform decision making

- **Emphasis on Environmental Justice**

- identify & address the effects of agency actions to achieve equitable benefits & burdens

<https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/technical/disciplines/social-and-land-use-effects/environmental-justice>

# Title VI Civil Rights Act

*“No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin,*

- be excluded from participation in,*
- be denied the benefits of, or*
- be subjected to discrimination*

*under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”*

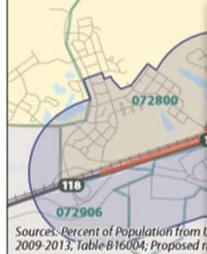
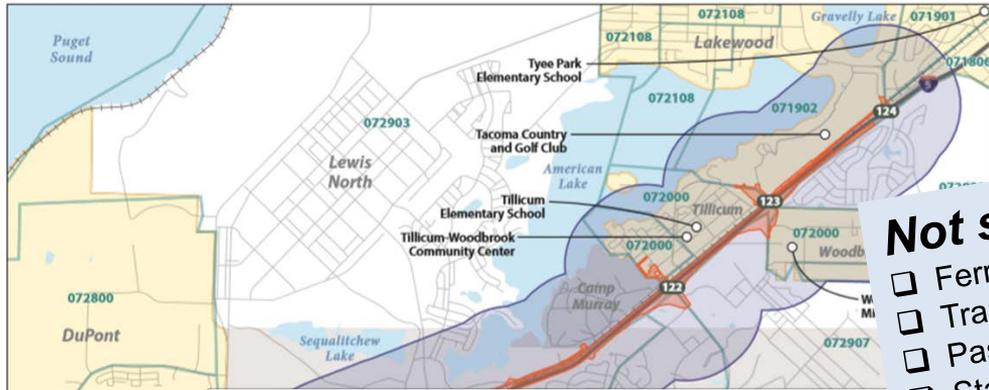
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, et seq.

# EJ Principles

1. To ensure the **full and fair participation** in the transportation decision-making process.
2. To **prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits.**
3. To avoid, minimize, or mitigate **disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects.**

USDOT’s Guiding Principles re: EO 12898:  
Federal Actions To Address Environmental  
Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations

# Range of WSDOT Projects & Activities

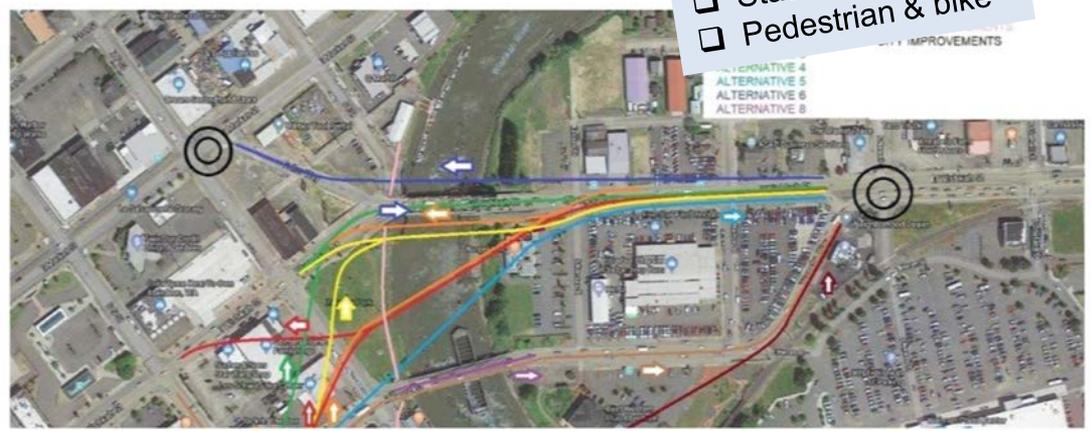


Sources: Percent of Population from U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013, Table B16004; Proposed n

- Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice Study Area
- Build Alternative Footprint
- Census Block Group Boundary

**Not shown:**

- Ferry terminals
- Transit projects
- Passenger rail
- State airfields
- Pedestrian & bike



## Highway Photos

- I-5 JBLM
- SR 150 near Chelan
- US 12 Aberdeen

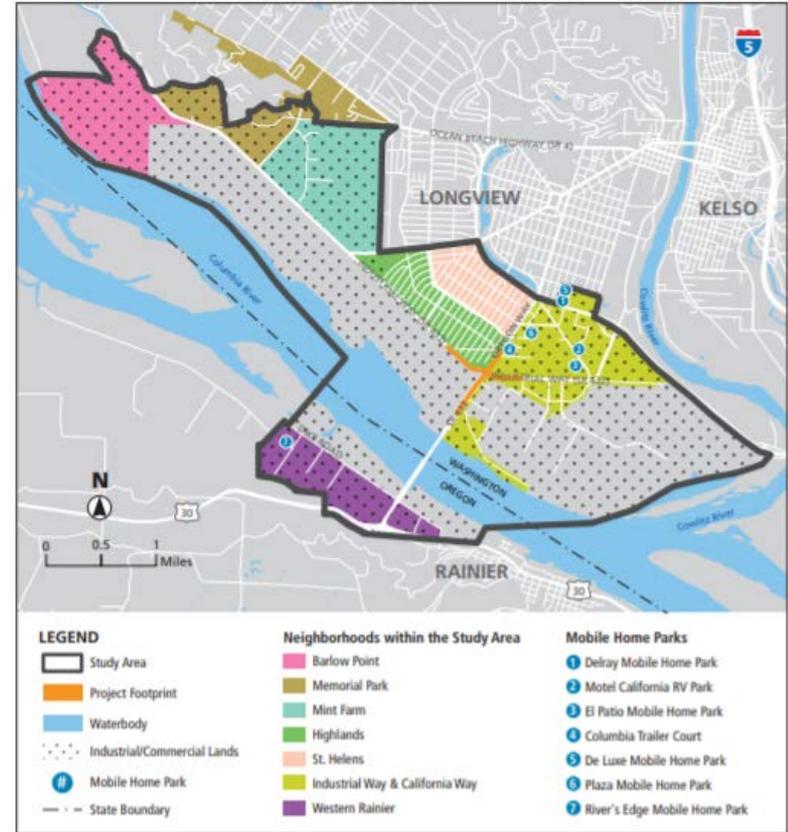
# Environmental Justice Analysis @ Project-Level

- Federal projects – follow federal definitions and USDOT requirements
- Use EPA’s EJSCREEN – Census data, school data

Table 3-7: Demographic Composition of the Highlands Neighborhood and Industrial Way and California Way Neighborhood

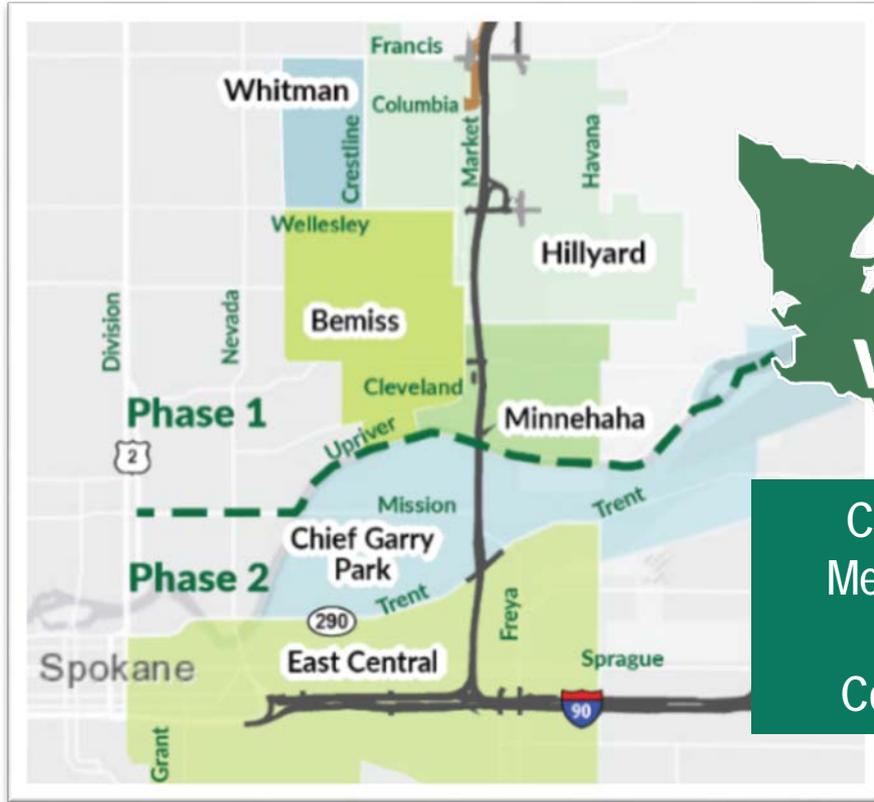
	HIGHLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD	INDUSTRIAL WAY AND CALIFORNIA WAY NEIGHBORHOOD	STUDY AREA
Racial or ethnic minority	25%	21%	15%
Low-income	42%	54%	26%
Disabled	39%	41%	32%
Elderly (over age 65)	6%	20%	13%
Youth (ages 0-17)	33%	18%	26%
Hispanic or Latino	21%	19%	12%
Transit dependent	15%	32%	8%
Limited English proficiency	6%	22%	4%

Figure 3-16: Neighborhoods and Mobile Home Parks

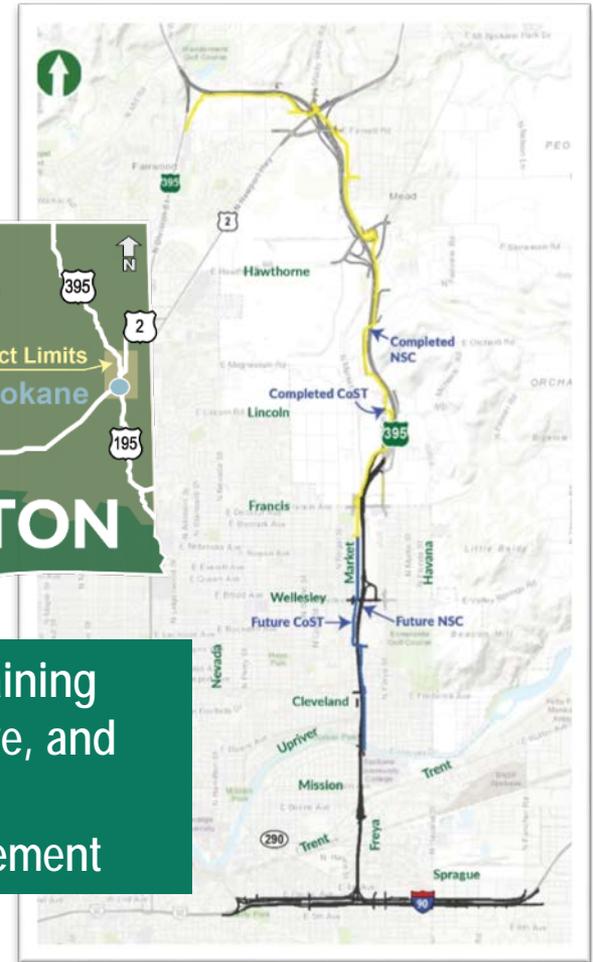


Assess benefits and burdens, ask: **Does an effect fall disproportionately on low-income or minority populations?**

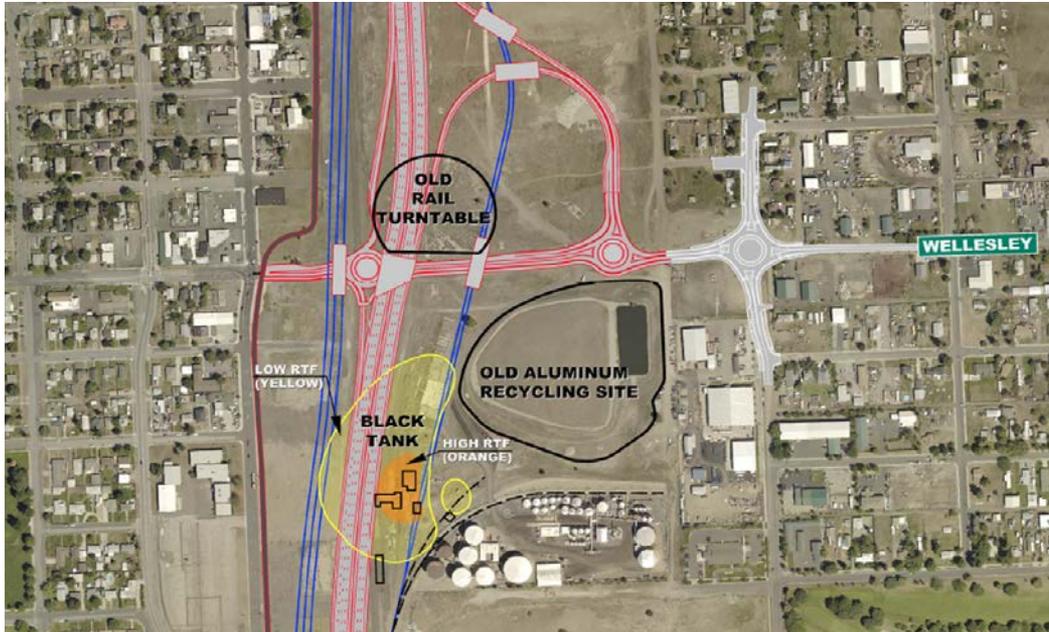
# North Spokane Corridor



Creating and Sustaining  
Meaningful, Inclusive, and  
Transparent  
Community Engagement



# Historic Conditions



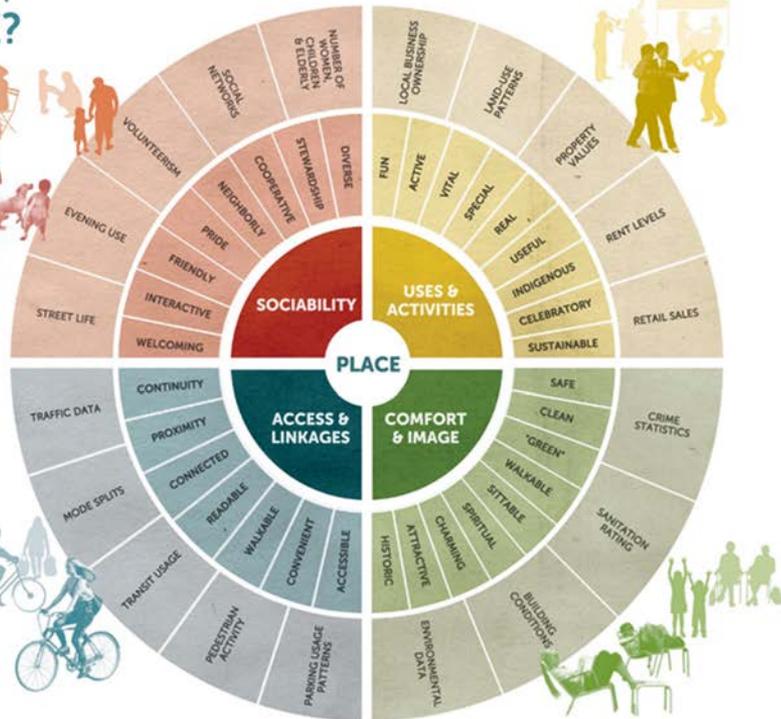
“At WSDOT, inclusive engagement means reaching out to all community members, so that they can choose to have a voice in the process and know their ideas were heard and considered.”

Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar

## WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?



- KEY ATTRIBUTES ●
- INTANGIBLES ○
- MEASUREMENTS ○

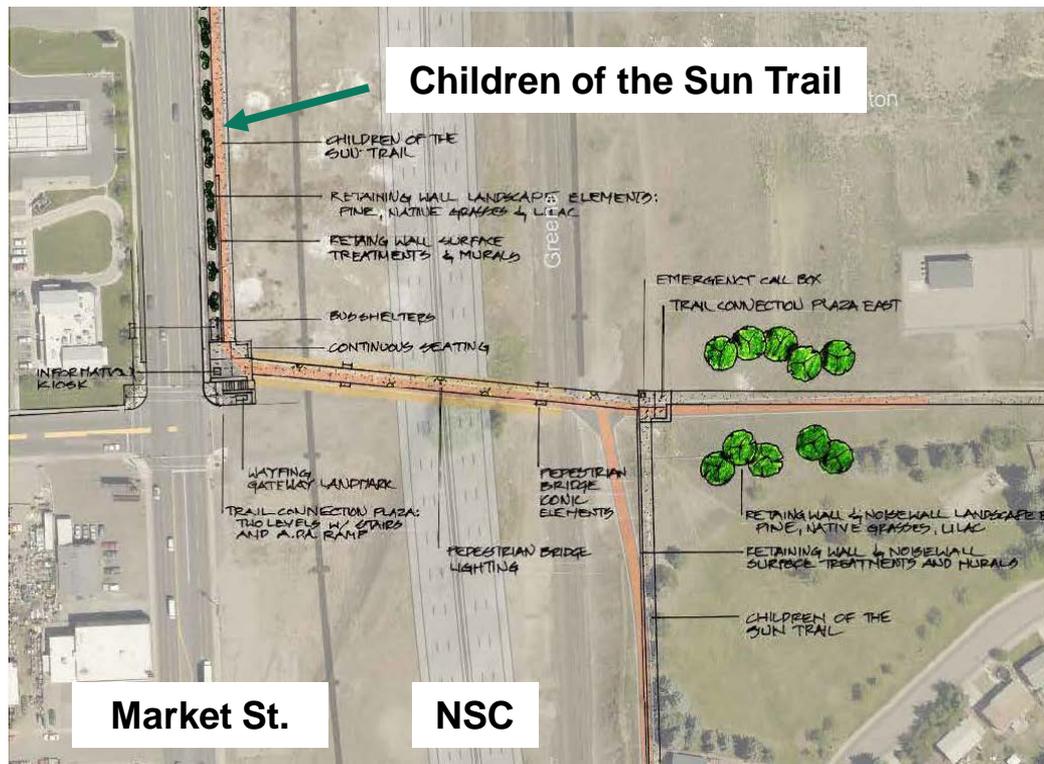
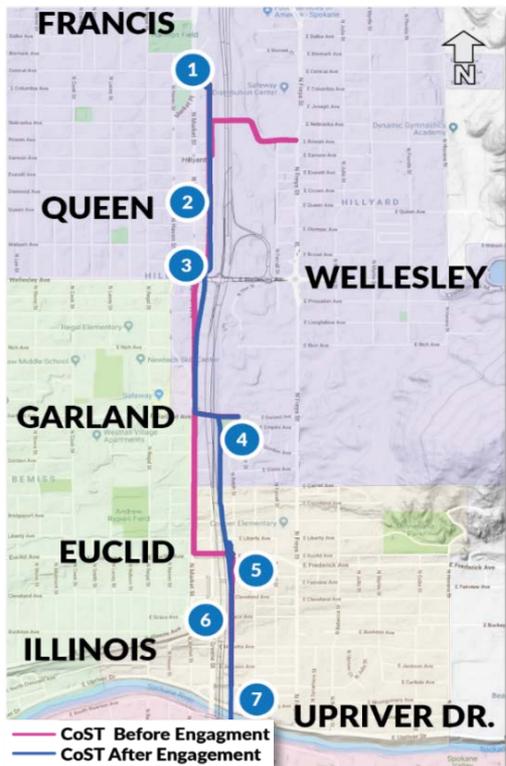


## Placemaking is...

- Community is the Expert
- Community-driven
- Visionary
- Function before form
- Adaptable
- Inclusive
- Focused on creating destinations
- Context-specific
- Dynamic
- Trans-disciplinary
- Transformative
- Flexible
- Collaborative
- Sociable

# Children of the Sun Trail Crosses at Garland

## Based on Community Engagement



# Garland Ave. & NSC

## Looking South



Market St.

# PLACE Making...

## Mission Avenue - Carlisle Avenue



2.24.2020

# Meaningful Connections...

## How Can We Best Engage with You?

Face-to-face interactions



- **Face-to-face (Synchronous)**  
Physical interactions to discuss ideas and share information/ideas/pictures
- **(Non) Face-to-face (Asynchronous)**  
Indirect methods of keeping communities informed and providing opportunities to share information/ideas/pictures

Non-face-to-face communication

# We Identify and Connect with Underrepresented & Diverse Communities



## COME PARTICIPATE

English

**cx<sup>w</sup>uywi**

Spokane Tribe

**TUAJ KOOM**

Hmong

**ITOK IM BOK KUNAAM**

Marshallese

**ПРИНИМАЙТЕ УЧАСТИЕ**

Russian

**ACÉRQUESE A PARTICIPAR**

Spanish

**БЕРІТЬ УЧАСТЬ**

Ukrainian

**HÃY CÙNG THAM GIA**

Vietnamese

6

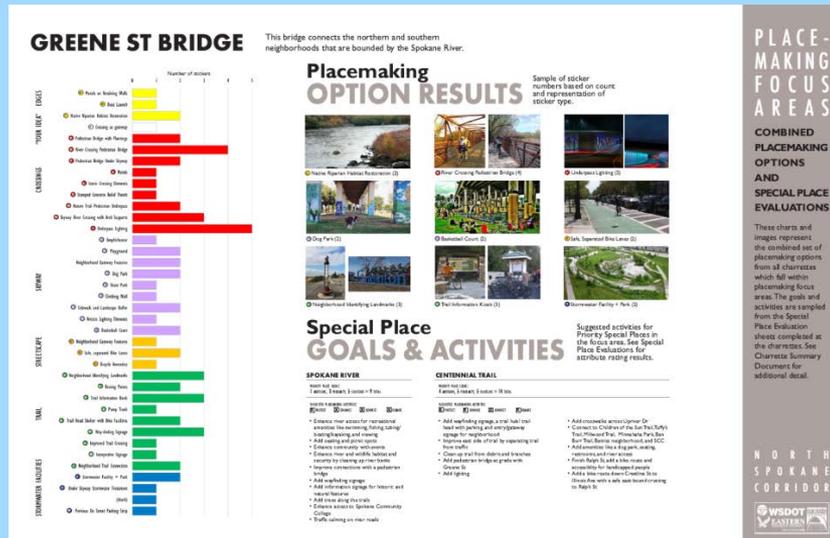
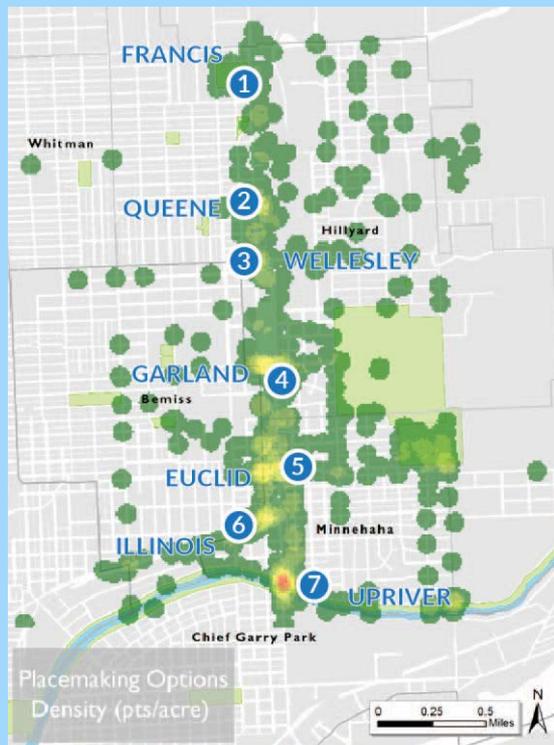
“Limited English  
Proficiency”  
Communities



# We Provide & Facilitate Opportunity to Influence



# We Gather Data Clearly Present Analysis that Leads to Outcomes



**PLACEMAKING FOCUS AREAS**

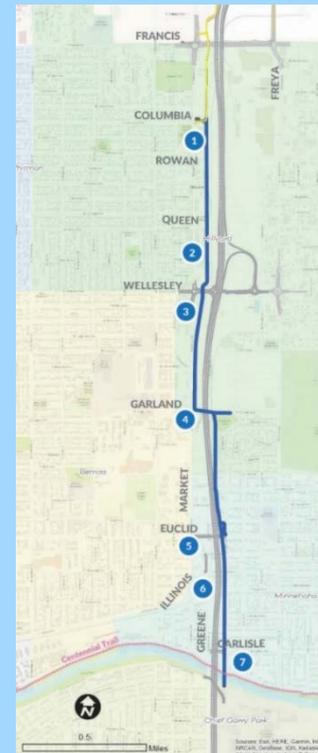
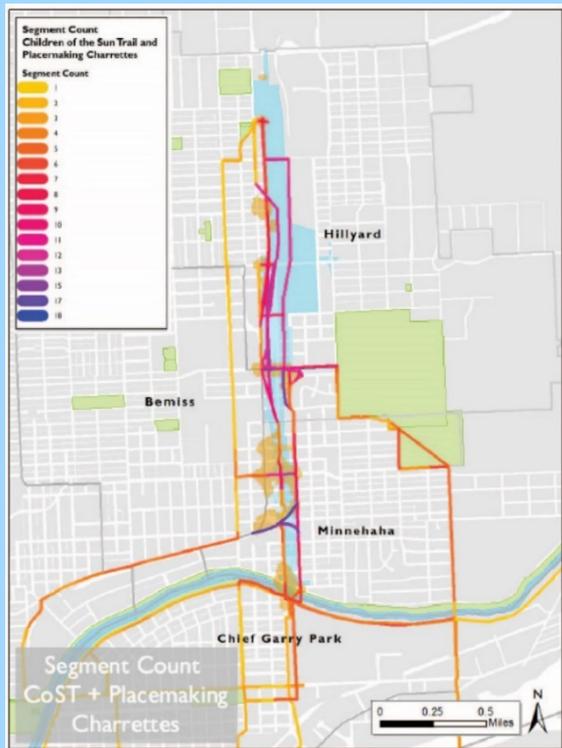
**COMBINED PLACEMAKING OPTIONS AND SPECIAL PLACE EVALUATIONS**

These charts and images represent the combined set of placemaking options from all characters which fall within placemaking focus areas. The goals and activities are compiled from the Special Place Evaluation process completed at the characters. See Characters Summary Document for additional detail.

**NORTH SPOKANE CORRIDOR**

**WSDOT EASTERN**

# We Deliver Collaboratively Informed Outcomes



# NORTHEAST BANK

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON



**LEGEND**  
 NSC Alignment  
 Children of the Sun  
 Trail Alignment  
 WSDOT Limited Access  
 WSDOT Parcels

## TODAY : THE VACANT SITE



**Residential Multifamily (RMF)** - The RMF is medium-density residential zone. Allowed housing is characterized by one to four story structures.

**Residential Two-Family (RTF)** - The RTF is a low density residential zone. One to two story structures such as duplexes, townhouses, and/or single family.



Looking southwest toward vacant Northeast Bank focus area that NSC will bisect. Approximately 320 feet by 270 feet.



Looking west toward the historic Greene Street Bridge



Looking east toward rest stop over the Spokane River along Centennial Trail

## TOMORROW : A GREAT PLACE



### Lighting Under NSC

- Pedestrian scale lighting
- Lighting under NSC for safety and visibility



### Iconic Pedestrian Gateway Feature

- Reflective of community identity and history



### Wall Treatment Landscape & Stormwater Landscape Features

- Terraced amphitheater-style seating
- Dog Park under NSC
- Ponderosa Pines
- Lilac
- Native Grasses
- Surface Wall Treatments



### Trail Connection Plaza Features

- Shelter
- Continuous Seating
- Wayfinding & Information Kiosks
- Restrooms
- E-Bike Charging

## FOCUS AREA OVERVIEW

Community members and stakeholders have identified the Northeast Bank focus area as a critical location connecting the future Children of the Sun Trail, Centennial Trail, Tuffy's Trail, and the Millwood Trail, while linking the Northeast Neighborhoods to destinations such as the Spokane River, the Spokane Community College and Transit Center. Motorists will use the future North Spokane Corridor while pedestrians and bicyclists utilize the separate parallel companion, Children of the Sun Trail. Within the Northeast Bank focus area are several publically owned parcels that have potential to reflect the community's identity, promote safety, economic growth, connectivity and accessibility. Some desired elements include trail connection plaza features, architectural wall and landscape features, lighting under the skyway and iconic elements over pedestrian bridge crossing. To effectively activate this public space the community expressed interest in a meeting plaza and dog park under the NSC with amphitheater-style seating that may also serve as a stormwater management solution.

## COMMUNITY THEMES & IDENTITY

- "Nature" theme - to reflect natural beauty of the Spokane River and habitat
- Native American textures and architectural features
- "Silent Movie" theme - famous silent Hollywood movies filmed at Minnehaha Park in early 1900's



# Thank You!



**Story Map Website**

[www.NSCPlace.com](http://www.NSCPlace.com)

**Facebook Page**

[@NSCPlace](https://www.facebook.com/NSCPlace)

**NSC Project Website**

[www.NSCFreeway.com](http://www.NSCFreeway.com)

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It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact OEO's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7082.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information Accommodation requests for people with disabilities can be made by contacting the WSDOT Diversity/ADA Affairs team at [wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov) or by calling toll-free, 855-362-4ADA (4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

