

North Spokane Corridor and SB 5853 Implementation

Joint Transportation Committee

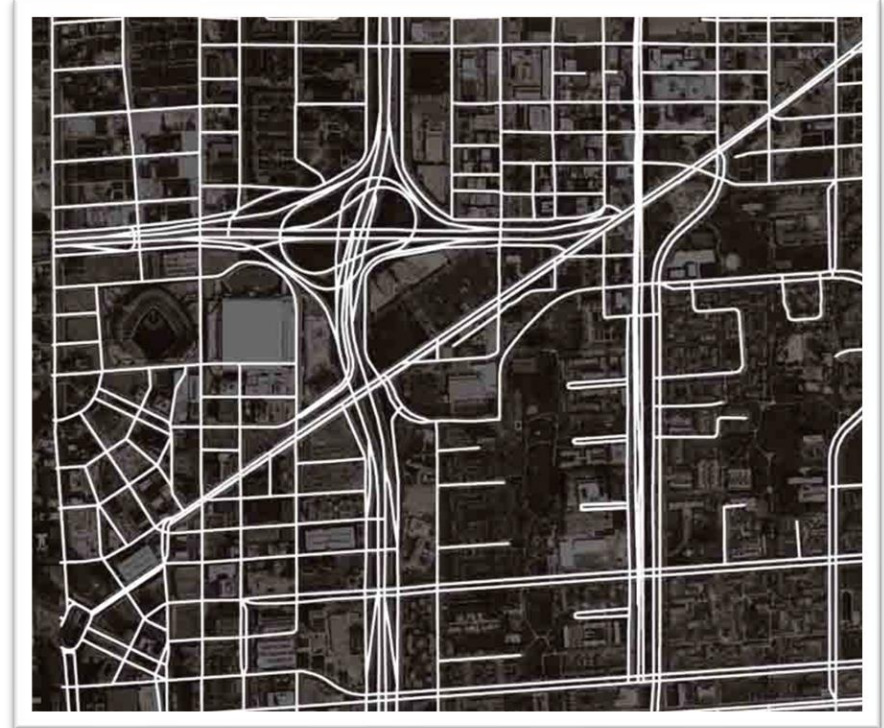
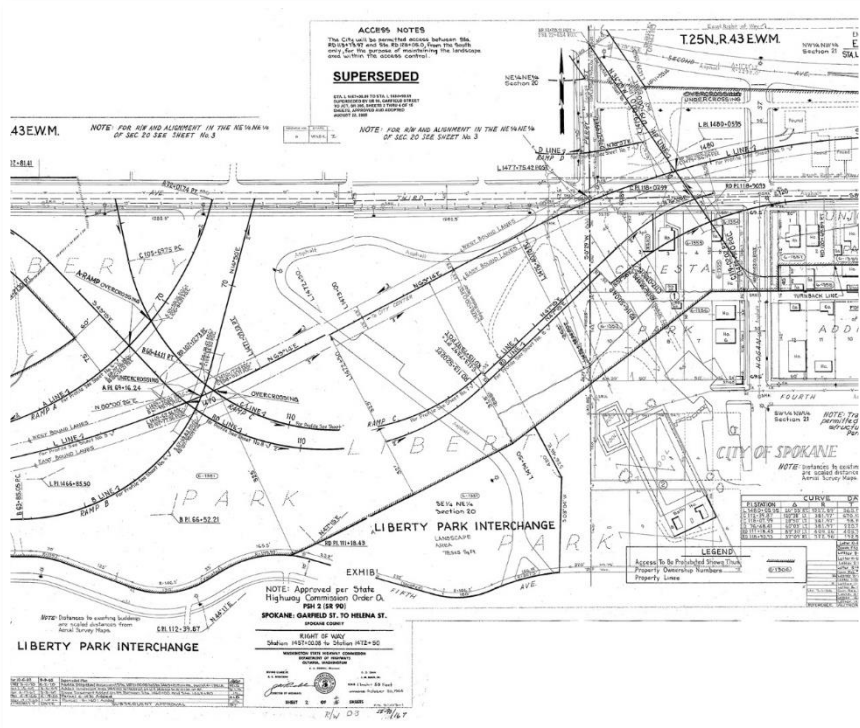
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June 21, 2022

Roger Millar, Secretary of Transportation

Amy Scarton, Deputy Secretary of Transportation

WSDOT Liberty Park Interchange Right-of-way Plans 1966





THEN AND NOW

Liberty Park gave way to I-90



Jan. 14, 1940: This photo was taken at Spokane's Liberty Park, where the ice was unusually smooth in the winter. Children would skate in the winter and made in the summer. The park was developed on donated land and was one of the city's oddest.

When the Washington Department of Transportation was planning the route of the new Interstate 90 highway through Spokane in the 1950s, several

One route was through downtown between Second and Third avenues. Another would have it run down Spokane Falls Boulevard, above Peaceful Valley and across Latah Creek with a bridge. Yet another route was uphill from Deaconess Hospital and Lewis and Clark High School. Most agreed that it should be situated where South Hill residential neighborhoods transition to the downtown business district.

Most of the plans had the new freeway going right through Liberty Park, one of Spokane's oldest. J. Lewis Clark donated the 21 acres of sloping rocky hillside and bottomland at Third Avenue and Arthur Street to the city in 1897.

A formal park was developed in 1907. A covered promenade and gazebo-style overlook was built. Picnic areas, wading pools and gardens were added. At the bottom of the rocky hillside was a large, muddy pond where kids waded in the

summer and skated in the winter.

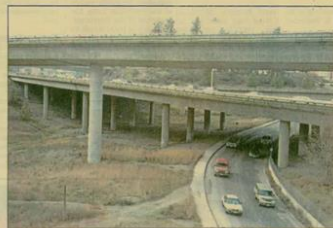
Over the years, kids often needed rescuing from icy water or quicksand-like mud, and parks management realized the pond was more hazard than amenity. It was slowly filled in by volunteer union labor starting around 1950. A pool was built around 1920 and abandoned in the late '50s because the tank leaked water as fast as it could be refilled.

Because of this, the Liberty Park pool was known as the coldest in Spokane. East Central residents felt slighted by the shabby condition of the pool and the planned takeover of their venerable park for the new highway.

"DOT" said the city 643,000 for 15 acres, and the new freeway opened in the early '70s. State Highway Commission chairman Elmer Hustley said, "It is our intention to leave the city with as good a park facility as what we interposed."

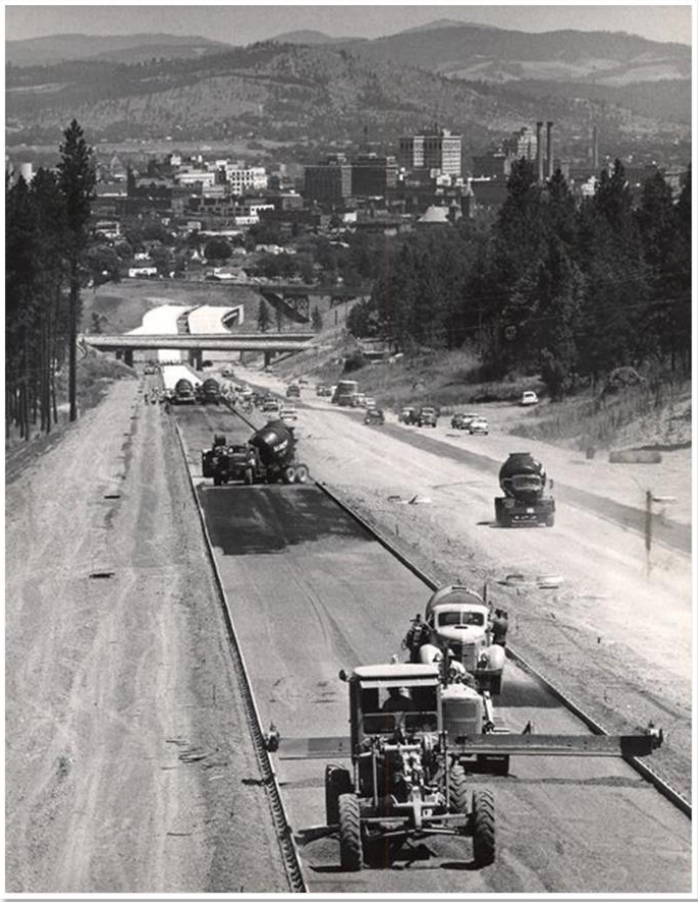
The DOT money was used to expand the park to the east and expand Grant Park in the Perry District. The ruins of the pillared rocky pathway and overlook are still on the hillside east of Arthur Street.

— Jesse Trisley

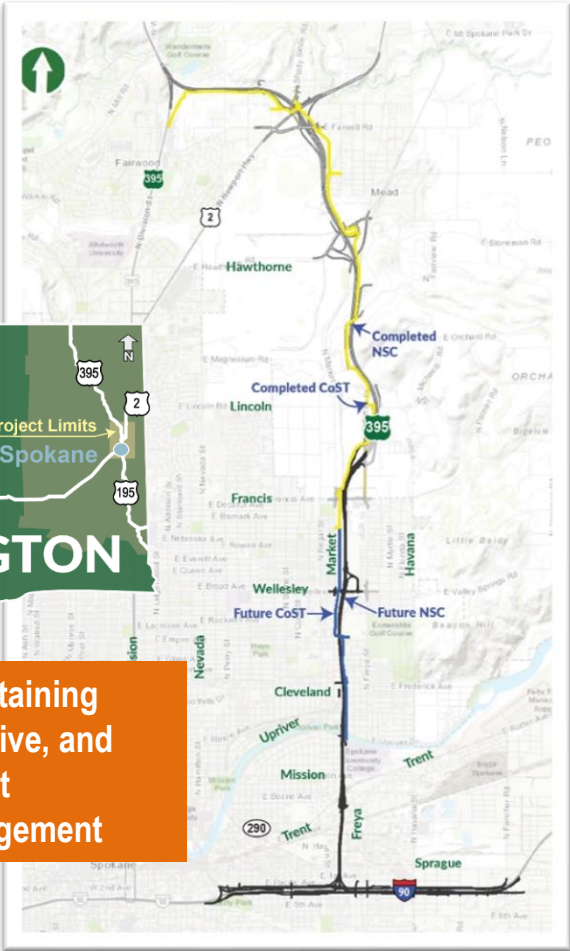


Present day: Interstate 90 runs through a ravine, past a rocky hillside that made up most of Liberty Park, one of Spokane's prettiest from 1897 to 1966. The waddy ravine bottom was once a natural pond, a popular play spot for neighborhood kids.





North Spokane Corridor



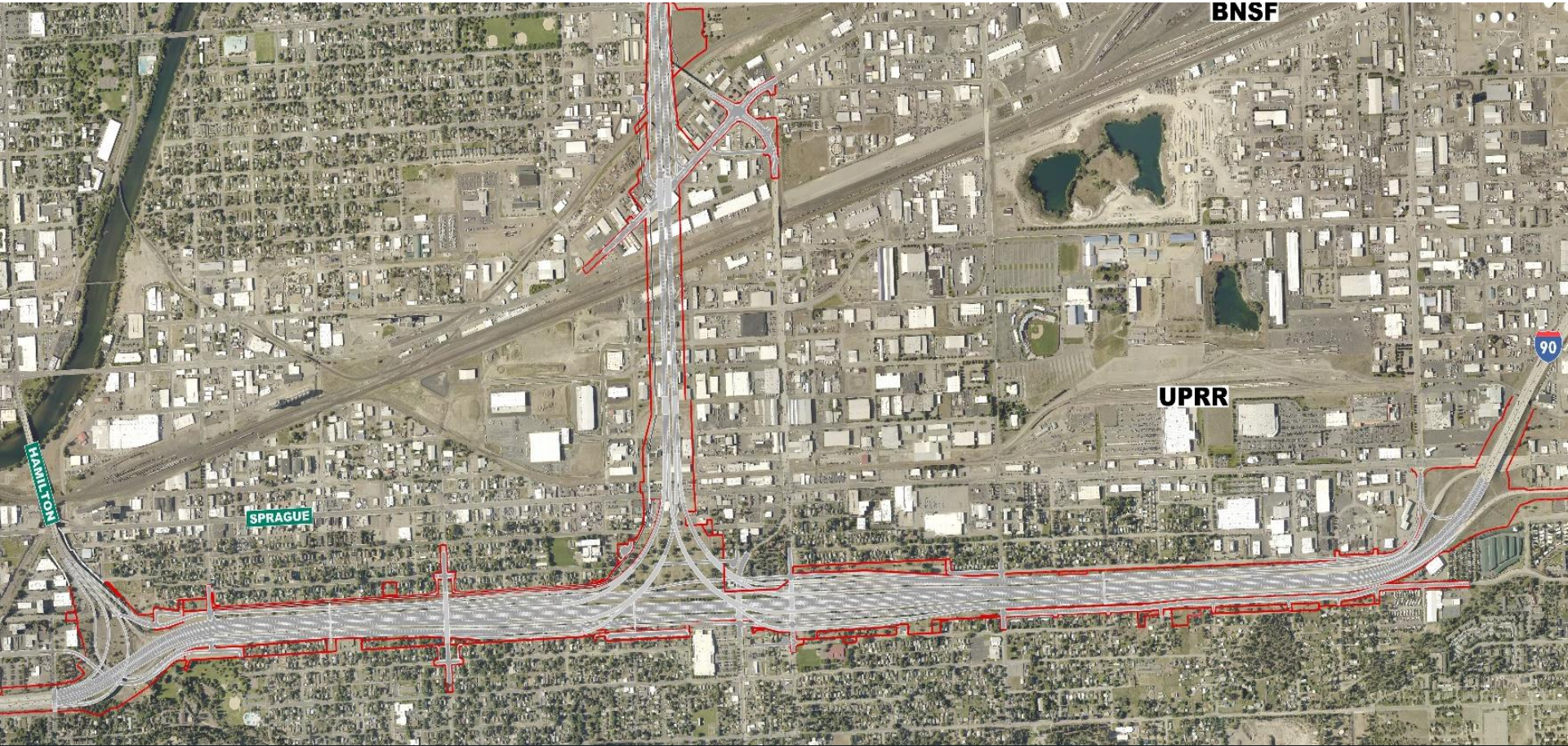
Creating and Sustaining
Meaningful, Inclusive, and
Transparent
Community Engagement

Leveraging Transportation Investments

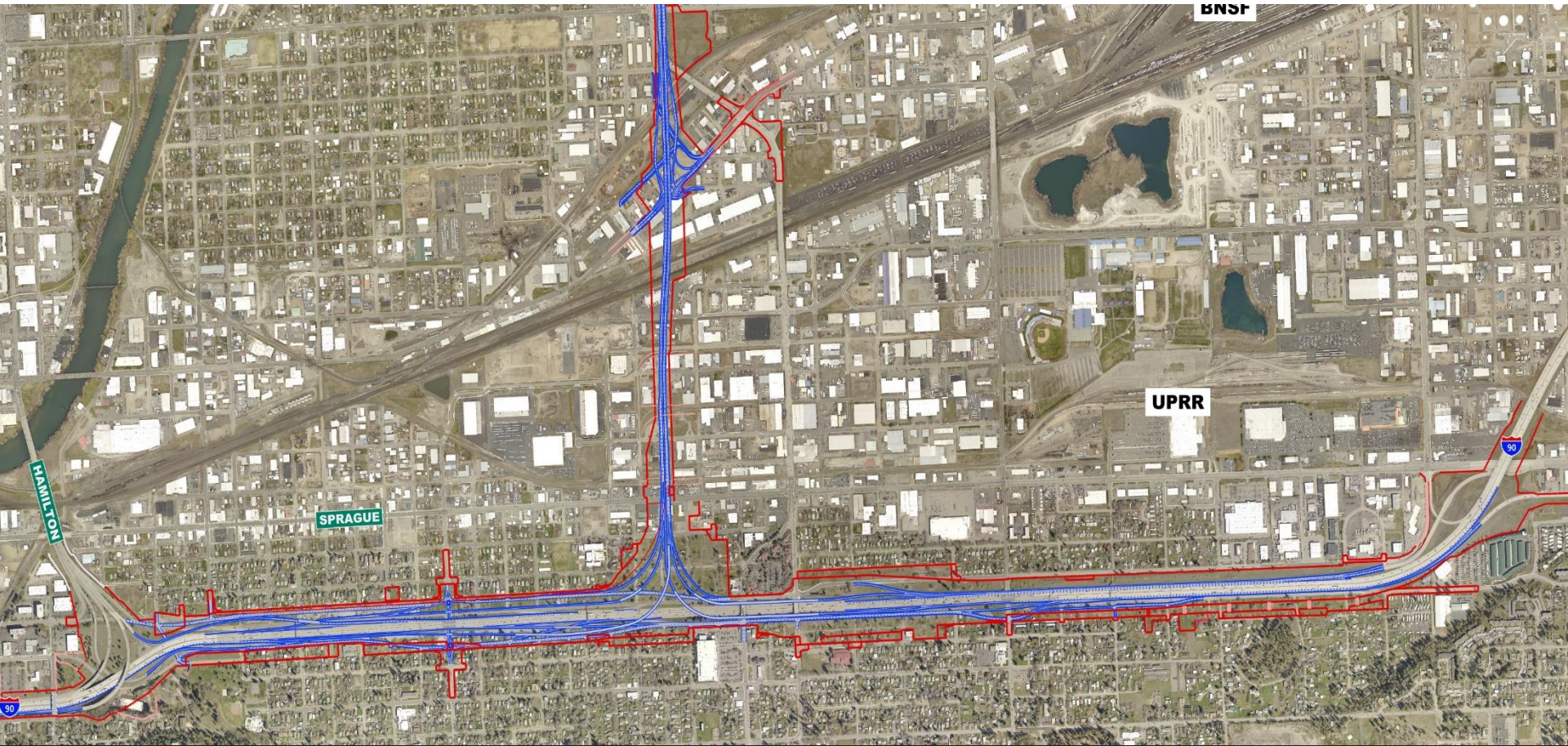
- Multimodal connectivity
- Placemaking
- Placekeeping - restorative infill development



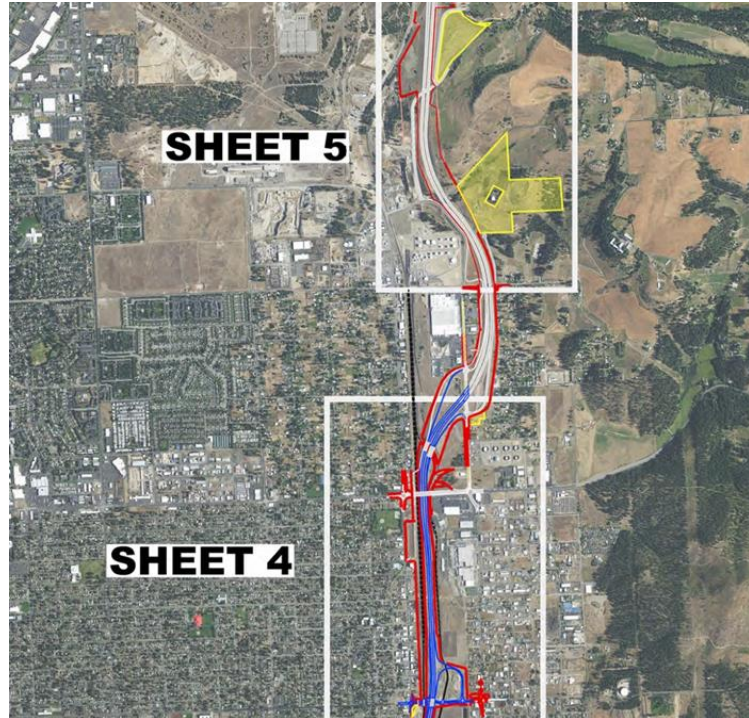
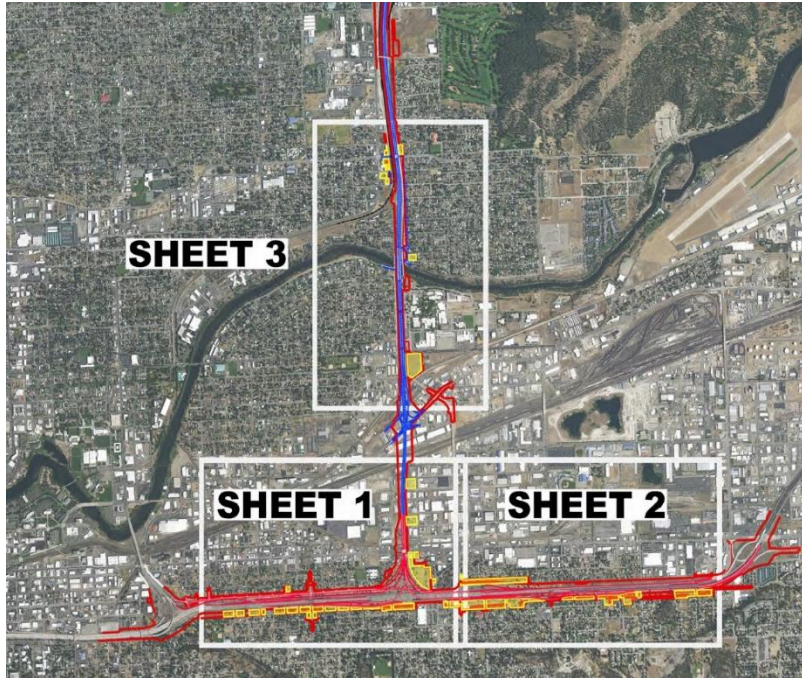
1997 - North Spokane Corridor Footprint



2022 – Practical Solutions Yields Reduced Footprint



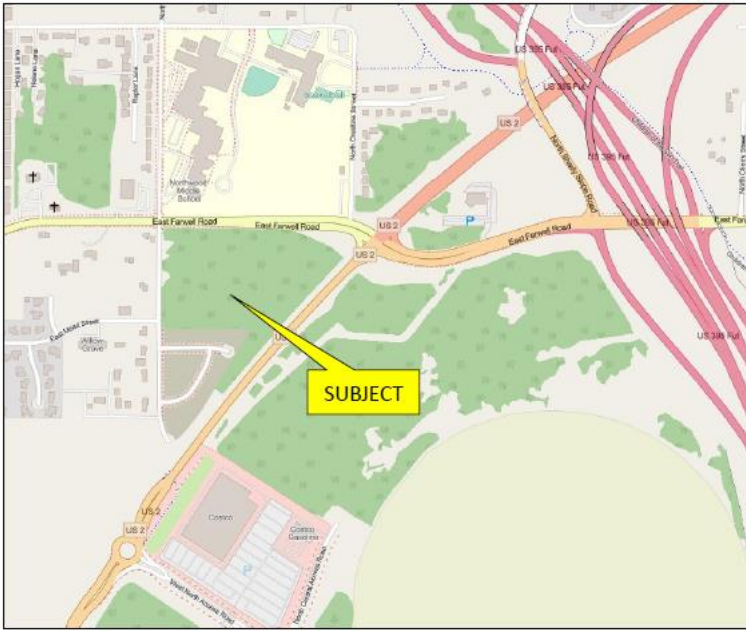
Practical Design Yields Infill Opportunity



North NSC – Available Public Land

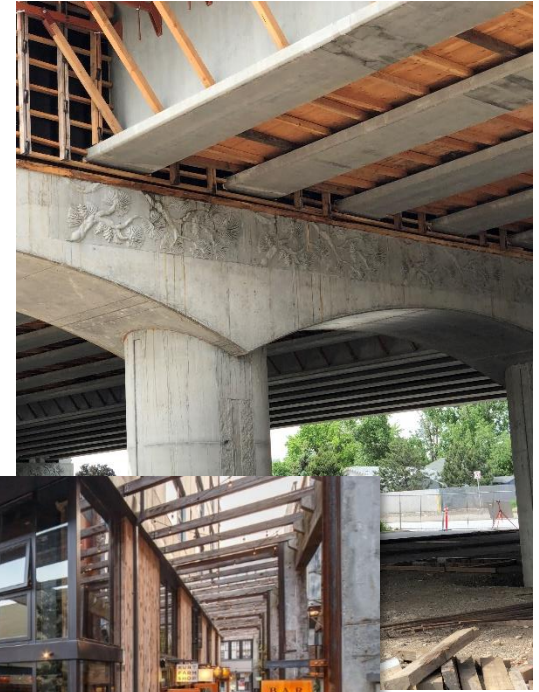


- 16.9 Acres of vacant land
- Low density residential
- Near Northwood Middle & Farwell Elementary School



Hillyard NSC – Available Public Land

Tomorrow: A Great Place



Spokane River NSC – Available Public Land

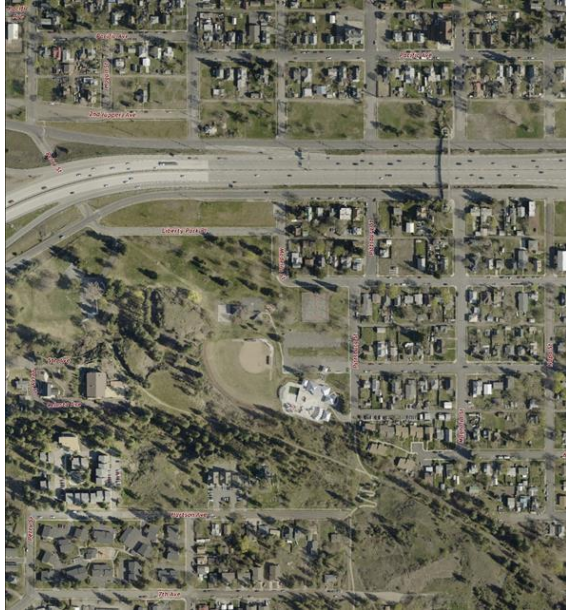


- 0.33 acres of vacant land
- Residential
- Near Spokane River and Spokane Community College





Reconnecting East Central (crossing I-90)



Next steps...

- Coordinating with others to collaboratively define a “placekeeping” process with communities.
- Available land near I-90 still undetermined as the design for the North Spokane Corridor is not finalized
- We are close... opportunities to be collaboratively determined

Questions?

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please contact:

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NSC Story Map Website

www.NSCPlace.com