

# **INTRODUCTION**

## Regional Vision for 2030

This Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a comprehensive, multimodal “blueprint” for transportation systems and services aimed at meeting the mobility needs of Spokane County through the year 2030. The Plan provides sufficient detail to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed actions, assess the interactive nature of the improvements, assess the potential social, economic, and environmental benefits/consequences, and demonstrate its financial reasonability over the next 23 years.

The MTP also identifies conceptual projects that have been recommended for a major investment analysis based on a defined deficiency in the Plan. These can be found in Section 4 of this Plan. Once the major investment analysis has been prepared, the findings and recommendations will be incorporated into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan subject to reasonable funding available to support their development. The Plan ultimately identifies a list of projects and programs expected to be implemented during the 23-year Plan time frame.

In order to achieve the MTP’s objectives, it is necessary to have a regional vision of Spokane and its future:

The Spokane Metropolitan Area is located in a beautiful natural setting along the Spokane River. It has pleasant neighborhoods, opportunities for higher education, a diverse economy, extensive public infrastructure, and abundant recreational opportunities. As a result of these amenities, Spokane has experienced significant growth in population and employment in recent years, and continues to grow.

Spokane County had a 2006 population of 443,800<sup>1</sup> people. The County is expected to grow by 141,715 people by 2030, to 585,515. This increase could adversely affect the very qualities that make Spokane a great place to live, as those extra drivers could put a serious strain on already overloaded roadways. **Table A** shows population projections for the Spokane area for the long (2030) term.

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<sup>1</sup> State of Washington Office of Financial Management, Forecasting Division. September 2006 Population Trends

**Table A. Population Projections**

| <b>Jurisdiction</b>                          | <b>2005</b>    | <b>2030</b>    |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Airway Heights                               | 4,640          | 7,000          |
| Cheney                                       | 10,070         | 13,000         |
| Deer Park                                    | 3,100          | 4,000          |
| Liberty Lake                                 | 5,255          | 10,000         |
| Medical Lake                                 | 4,350          | 6,000          |
| Spokane City                                 | 198,700        | 255,000        |
| Spokane Valley                               | 85,010         | 106,000        |
| <b>Spokane County, Unincorporated Total:</b> | <b>436,300</b> | <b>563,767</b> |

Source: Intermountain Demographics

The goal of this MTP, however, is to ensure that those additional 141,715 people are planned for in advance, in order to prevent future gridlock on area roads.

It is the purpose of this Plan, over the next 23 years, to see that there are strategies to relieve congestion on roadways exceeding capacity, plans to increase the use of alternate and non-motorized transportation, methods to bring mixed-use activity centers to neighborhoods, funding to fix worn-out roads, and plans in place to maintain and upgrade the integrity of the neighborhoods we already have.

### **Public Involvement In The MTP Update Process**

Throughout development of this plan and its sub-components, SRTC has used a variety of techniques to involve the public, in compliance with SRTC's Public Involvement, Title VI and Environmental Justice policies.

Those techniques have included:

- Meeting with area jurisdictions involved in the MTP update process
- Updates sent to a distribution list (included as Appendix 1 of this Plan) of agency employees and interested citizens
- Holding a public comment period of 30 days
- Advertising the public comment period through public access channels, paid advertising, press releases, and on the SRTC website.
- Hosting a public meeting to collect public comment on the MTP during the public comment period.
- Providing copies of the MTP to several media outlets that requested it in order to do stories on the Plan.

SRTC's Public Involvement Plan is included as Appendix 2 of this Plan.

It is the policy of SRTC to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and

activities. Title VI requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which SRTC receives federal financial assistance. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with SRTC. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with SRTC's Title VI Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence.

For more information on Title VI, or to obtain a Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form, or obtain information on Environmental Justice, see the SRTC website at [www.srtc.org](http://www.srtc.org).