

University District/Downtown Traffic Study

The City of Spokane's Department of Public Works and Utilities has accepted a bid from DKS Associates, a national transportation planning and engineering firm out of Portland, Oregon, to conduct a University District/Downtown Traffic Study.

Several transportation-related studies and recommendations have been developed in downtown Spokane over the past decade. This latest study will integrate the results of all of these and provide a comprehensive assessment of the transportation needs in Downtown Spokane and the University District. The study will provide a plan for the future that guides investment, supports development visions and addresses operation needs for the City.

The University District/Downtown Traffic Study will include an analysis of downtown traffic flow conditions and propose alternative recommendations which may include signal timing revisions, flow directional alternative recommendations and/or revisions to on-street parking.

The study consists of two distinct areas. The first is the University District, which roughly encompasses the area bounded by Mission Avenue on the north, Perry Street on the east, Division Street on the west and Eighth Avenue on the south to include the hospitals. The second area is the Downtown core, roughly bounded by Boone Avenue on the north, Division Street on the east, Eighth Avenue on the south to include the hospitals and Maple Street on the west.

The University District is a conglomerate of public and private Universities, private land owners and the City of Spokane. Each entity has a desire to deal with traffic impacts brought about by development and expansion of the District, while balancing the needs of clientele. This plan includes a proposed extension of Riverside Avenue to the east, along the south river bank, to a connection with Trent Avenue east of Hamilton Street.

Downtown Spokane has a wide variety of development underway. A key goal of the University District/Downtown Traffic Study would be to determine the most efficient method of mitigating the traffic impact of these developments. There are also several proposals under consideration that have the potential to impact Downtown traffic, such as parking changes, light rail, streetcars and one-way versus two-way traffic. All of these proposals need to be analyzed as a whole to determine how to plan for future transportation needs.

The study will cover the following areas: analyze existing traffic volumes and trends, forecast future traffic volumes, trip distribution and trip assignment and review previous plans and studies to determine which components of each study are feasible.

This University District/Downtown Traffic Study will cost approximately \$500,000. It will be used by the City's Engineering Services Department to evaluate the worthiness

and timeliness of future road and traffic revision projects. It will also be used in the project scoping process to apply for State and Federal grants.