



AGENDA REPORT

City Council Meeting

TODAY'S DATE: December 30, 2025

MEETING DATE: January 7, 2026

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Erik Bush PLA, Project Manager, City Forester

SUBJECT: Downtown Revitalization Phase 3 – Draft Public Involvement Plan Update

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

On December 5, 2012, City Council adopted the Downtown Streets Plan and Design Guide, envisioning Downtown Sandpoint as the “Hub of the Inland Northwest”—a vibrant and welcoming destination for dining, entertainment, shopping, art, and recreation, fostering a strong sense of community throughout the year. The effort to revitalize Downtown Sandpoint began in the early 2000s, with significant contributions from business owners, property owners, community members, consultants, and City representatives working collaboratively to plan, design, secure funding, and implement improvements.

On May 5, 2021, City Council adopted the Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTMP), which refined the concept for completing the third/final phase of the SURA-funded Downtown Revitalization Project. This phase involves a full reconstruction of First Avenue from Church Street to at least Lake Street, as well as short-term improvements identified in the MTMP at Bridge Street and First Avenue.

On November 15, 2023, City Council adopted an additional report recommending improvements to First Avenue to support new development. These improvements include specialty paving, planting beds, street trees, street furnishings, wayfinding, and signage. A new intersection configuration at Bridge Street and First Avenue is also planned to improve pedestrian safety and improve traffic flow. South of Bridge Street, the plan incorporates expanded sidewalks to accommodate a multi-use pathway and angled parking. The Report also envisions a traffic circle at First and Superior, under a phase 4 improvement.

Phases 1 and 2, completed between 2018 and 2021, improved Cedar Street (from Fifth Avenue to First Avenue) and First Avenue (from Cedar Street to Church Street). These improvements, funded by the Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency (SURA), provided upgraded pedestrian sidewalks, reconstructed roadway, improved stormwater management, improved lighting, tree planting, and enhanced public spaces.

The Professional Services agreement for the design of the Downtown Revitalization Phase 3 project (Resolution 25-048) was executed on December 3, 2025. This phase will align with the Downtown Streets Plan and Design Guide, the Multimodal Transportation Master Plan, and the Comprehensive Plan. The key objectives of this revitalization effort are to enhance downtown connectivity, improve multimodal infrastructure, and support economic growth.

Phase 3 will extend the improvements along First Avenue from Church Street to approximately Lake Street, including portions of Bridge Street. The project scope includes:

- Road reconstruction
- Wider sidewalks to improve pedestrian accessibility.

- Street furniture and landscaping to enhance public spaces and aesthetics.
- Parking upgrades to improve downtown functionality and access.
- Bioretention cells for stormwater treatment before discharge into Sand Creek.
- Incorporation of public art installations to enhance Sandpoint's cultural identity.

A Public Involvement Plan was drafted by Welch Comer is attached to this agenda report. This plan will promote transparency, gather community input, and encourage stakeholder participation throughout the design process. Engagement strategies include public meetings and open houses, stakeholder workshops, online surveys, project website and social media updates, press releases, newsletters, and advisory committee meetings.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: No action, update only

**WILL THERE BE ANY FINANCIAL IMPACT? YES HAS THIS ITEM BEEN BUDGETED? YES;
within FY26 budget.**

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Public Involvement Plan

ACTION:

No Action Requested