



CALL TO ACTION:

If you haven't already, get involved *now* to stop a potential new tax being considered on Downtown

What you need to know:

- A Downtown parking tax concept is being considered by the City Council right now on **all** for-pay commercial parking in greater Downtown.
- The tax would **apply only to parking paid for by the user** and would not apply to businesses which appear to provide "free" parking as in suburban retail or business districts.
- **No other neighborhood in the city or region would face a similar tax burden.**
- **Tax rates could range as high as \$100+ per year, per space.**
- Funds would be allocated for use in the operation and preservation of city streets (city-wide), implementation of the Complete Streets concept, and other transportation improvements.

Why this tax must be stopped:

- This **tax would pass through** directly to you as a Downtown worker or patron.
- It would **increase your costs while also driving away new business** to suburban areas.
- It would become **another reason why suburban sprawl is cheaper than urban development.**
- It would make Downtown's top competitive disadvantage - for-pay parking - that much more expensive at a time when **businesses are already struggling** to stay above water.
- **Not a single business or retail district does for the City what Downtown already does:** a self-assessed Business Improvement District, the highest density contribution into property and sales tax in the region, direct out-of-pocket contribution to fund additional police protection, long-standing investments into capital improvements, and parking that has to be paid for by the user, both on and off-street.
- The Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) recognizes the City has a budget shortfall and will continue to partner with the City to help **find better, more progressive options** on addressing challenges versus a regressive tax.
- The DSP is committed to the plans as outlined in the 2008 *Downtown Plan Update*. Just as with the original 1999 *Downtown Plan*, the DSP will work with both the private and public sectors to identify, advocate and secure funding options and tools, which resulted in over \$3.7 billion in redevelopment in the last decade.

What you can do: Make sure your voice is heard!

- **Tell City Council that a parking tax is ill-advised and should not be enacted:**
 - Amber Waldref: awaldref@spokanecity.org
 - Bob Apple: bapple@spokanecity.org
 - Jon Snyder: jsnyder@spokanecity.org
 - Richard Rush: rrush@spokanecity.org
 - Nancy McLaughlin: nmclaughlin@spokanecity.org
 - Steve Corker: scorker@spokanecity.org
 - Joe Shogan: jshogan@spokanecity.org
- **Contact DSP** President Marty Dickinson: mdickinson@downtownspokane.net or Andrew Rolwes: arolwes@downtownspokane.net, 456.0580, with questions.
- **Hear what Council members say** about the parking tax concept at the **September 23rd** Council study session starting at 3:30pm at the Council Briefing Center, City Hall basement. No public comments at the session.
- **Stay up-to-date** on this issue at the Downtown Spokane Partnership website: www.downtownspokane.org/parking-tax.php
- **Get the word out:** Distribute this flyer. Post it on public bulletin boards, Twitter, Facebook, blog and chat about what happens to your business if the tax passes. Talk to colleagues, customers and friends about what this means to your bottom line and your pocket book.