



DOWNTOWN SPOKANE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

November 1, 2024

Dear Downtown BID Ratepayer:

On behalf of the Downtown Spokane Business Improvement District Ratepayer Advisory Board, thank you for being a part of this special district. By owning property, locating your business here and/or living in downtown Spokane, you are part of the financing district known as the Downtown Business Improvement District, or BID. With an exclusive focus on fostering economic and community vitality locally, BID-funded services and programs ensure that the people that work, live, visit and recreate in our district flourish.

Nearly 30 years ago, the BID was established by property and business owners to enhance services and programs downtown. As a BID Ratepayer, you have unique access to these services and programs designed to benefit your property, your employees and customers.

BID assessments collectively fund supplemental services and improvements in the geographically defined BID service area to enhance—not replace—existing municipal services. With guidance from the BID Ratepayer Advisory Board and BID Ratepayers like you, BID programs and services are constantly evaluated and adjusted to respond to the changing needs of downtown Spokane. Your 2024 assessments supported:

Keeping downtown safe and clean.

- Security & Hospitality Ambassadors provided a uniformed presence on the the street 7-days-a-week to respond to more than 8,000 combined citizens assists, responses to calls for service, and contacts to merchants and businesses.
- Extended supplemental private security patrols during the evenings of the busy holiday shopping and summer seasons.
- Security & Hospitality Ambassadors collected more than 3,000 bags of trash and removed more than 2,000 graffiti tags while maintaining 190 garden planters and 58 hanging garden baskets.
- Regular cleaning of downtown railroad viaducts focused on coordination with city code enforcement to address ongoing hot spots while also power washing and sanitizing sidewalks and snow removal from crosswalk ramps in the winter.
- Quarterly assessments of unhoused populations in the area with support for the Spokane Treatment and Recovery Services (STARS) Car50 program providing transportation to individuals seeking immediate substance use treatment.

Enhancing economic vitality.

- Maintaining and promoting the BID's online business directory, parking information and event listings on the DowntownSpokane.org website.
- Support for new business openings with ribbon cuttings and grand opening support services while promoting events, specials and support for existing businesses.
- Awarded more than \$20,000 Small Business Façade Improvement Grants to support and coach small commercial property and business owners to improve the street-facing exteriors of their structures.

- Grew the “Spokane is Downtown” marketing campaign to highlight local and small businesses within in the BID each month, including the 2nd annual “Best in BID” awards featured in the Spokane Journal of Business and The Inlander.
- Produced and distributed an economic snapshot of downtown Spokane featuring data, facts and statistics about the BID, in-depth editorial profiles, and an updated downtown development map.
- Expanded the “Back to Downtown” marketing promotions to engage downtown employees and customers to support downtown businesses.
- Coordinated parking validation (EasyPark, PremierPark) and promotional parking programs (ShuttlePark) with support of the launch of the new Downtown/North Bank shuttle by STA.

Expanding programming, events and place activation.

- Leveraged Expo+50 partnership to elevate and activate Downtown.
- Hosted special events and ongoing activations that are oriented towards resident and employee community-building.
- Invested in activations that directly increase foot traffic, including the recently re-branded First Fridays, Fall Fest, Holiday Sidewalks, and block parties across downtown.
- Supported Spokane Arts to repair murals and place new iconic art in public places around the BID.
- Added new decorative overhead lighting and in nearly 100 downtown trees to make Downtown more inviting, attractive and walkable.
- Supported strategic development of underused and/or underutilized properties for new creative housing uses.

In 2025, BID assessments will continue to fund services and programs that make downtown an appealing option to work, live and visit. We recognize the challenges to maintaining a safe, clean and welcoming downtown. At a time when the city's own resources are limited, having dedicated staff and programs exclusively focused on improving downtown is more critical than ever. The Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) staff work 7-days-a-week to manage these services and will continue to elevate the issues that affect downtown. The BID is critical to ensuring vibrant, safe and welcoming public places around downtown.

Learn more about the BID, services and your BID Ratepayer Advisory Board representatives at www.DowntownSpokane.org/ratepayers.

Thank you for investing in downtown Spokane and your continued support.

Sincerely,



Bryn West
2024 Chair | RAB Professional Seat 1
Downtown BID Ratepayer Advisory Board



Emilie Cameron
President & CEO
Downtown Spokane Partnership