

Your opinion is welcomed on a project that will help encourage economic growth and address transportation mobility and safety needs for the Cities of Airway Heights and Spokane. Click the link to take a survey about this project: <https://www.westplainsconnection.com/>

Background

The West Plains Airport Area is one of the fastest growing areas in Washington State. To accommodate this growth, S3R3 Solutions is conducting a transportation planning study, in cooperation with the City of Airway Heights and Spokane, that will result in an action plan for expanding and improving transportation along the 6th, 10th and 12th Avenue corridor north of State Route 2 in the City of Airway Heights and City of Spokane. S3R3 Solutions is the Public Development Authority managing the development of the West Plains Airport Area.

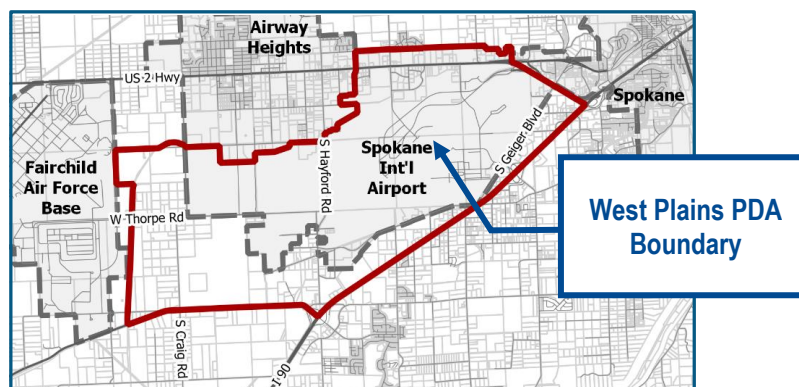
What is Transportation Planning? *Transportation planning is the process of developing the policies, strategy, solutions and capital investments needed to move people and goods between destinations, as practiced through a cooperative process designed to foster involvement by all users of the system, such as businesses, community groups, environmental organizations, the traveling public, freight operators and general public, through a proactive public participation process.*

Several unique challenges and opportunities with managing transportation in the West Plains Airport Area include:

- **Significant Recent Growth:** Traditionally transportation planning is based to a large degree on past growth rates experienced by an area or region. Because growth in recent years has significantly outpaced growth over the past 20 years the traditional models for transportation planning are inadequate. As a result, the region is developing new methods of predicting future traffic volumes and patterns based on land use, job growth and residential housing.
- **Congestion:** The West Plains is experiencing diverse growth including hospitality and entertainment, retail, commercial, industrial, logistics and housing to name a few. Growth causes increased congestion and longer travel times. Besides the impact of delays on our social and economic environment the West Plains largest employer Fairchild Air Force Base depends on predictable response times. Appropriate transportation planning strives to reduce congestion and increase safety to support economic prosperity and quality of life to the benefit of all system users.
- **Multimodal Options:** A robust transportation system provides it users with several mode options to move throughout the system. Multimodal is the transportation of goods and people through many different modes of transportation and may include vehicles, multi-use pathways, bike lanes, buses, railway, and air.

Location

The West Plains Airport Area is generally defined as I-90 to the southeast, Fairchild Air Force Base to the west, and the City of Airway Heights to the north. The boundary is shown below. This project expands beyond the PDA boundary and has a system impact on projects inside and outside the PDA.



Goals & Approach of the Study

The goal of this study is to develop an action plan for addressing transportation in the West Plains, particularly the segment from Craig Road to Flint Road north and parallel to State Route 2. The long-term vision is to construct a transportation network within the West Plains to efficiently move people and goods throughout the region. This corridor is a critical element of the overall network which will connect people, jobs and activities.

The study will be accomplished through the following general steps:

- **Collect Data:** Data is needed to conduct the study including topographic and boundary surveys, traffic counts, land use and user surveys.
- **Predict Future Traffic Volumes:** Use a combination of existing data and future predictions of housing, jobs and land use to predict future traffic volumes for the design on streets and intersections.
- **Environmental and Cultural Screening:** Collect existing data to determine likely environmental and cultural conditions requiring special consideration prior to and during construction.
- **Community Engagement:** Inform the community through a proactive outreach program and engage stakeholders in the decision making for the project planning and design.
- **Right-of-way:** Determine right-of-way needs for the project and engage property owners.
- **Design Report:** A summary of the project planning and design elements to inform final design and for application to grant funding.
- **Project Funding:** Seek a varied funding package for final design and construction of the project. Funding sources are anticipated to include private, public, state and federal funds.

Timeline

- May to June 2020 – Collect Data
- June to July 2020 – Identify Alternatives
- August 2020 – Complete 35% Design and Design Report
- August 14, 2020 – Submit Project for Funding Grants

Study Team

- S3R3 Solutions
- City of Airway Heights
- City of Spokane
- TO Engineers
- Parametrix
- GeoEngineers
- Big Sky Public Relations
- Plateau
- Leland Consultants
- Epic Land Design