

Spokane City Council
West 808 Riverside Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201

Council President Shogun and Council Members,

RE: The Transportation Impact Fee Ordinance hearing scheduled for Jan 17, 2011

The North Indian Trail Neighborhood Council met on Jan 11, 2011 and considered the Transportation Impact Fee Ordinance as forwarded to you by the Plan Commission and also the proposal by Council Person Rush to delay passage of the ordinance in order to include expanded requirements for bicycle, pedestrian and public transit facilities and level of service standards.

We have voted 27 to 1 to ask that the ordinance and related projects and fees be enacted as forwarded by the Plan Commission.

As we understand Council Person Rush's proposal, it includes referring the ordinance back to the Plan Commission and the Community Assembly. We do not believe that this constitutes adequate public participation in what is a substantial re-thinking of transportation capabilities and priorities in Spokane.

We agree with the concept of improving alternatives to motor vehicle transportation in Spokane. However, we believe that there needs to be an extensive public education and participation program, including the Spokane Transit Authority and other affected or interested organizations. The process to develop the ordinance before you took over one and one-half years. A proper process to develop Council Person Rush's proposals could take as long or longer.

Passing the ordinance now will start the process of collecting funds to begin addressing the backlog of projects needed to satisfy existing concurrency requirements. Failing to pass the ordinance now will mean more development related traffic will be generated without contributing funds for needed capacity improvements for any mode of transportation. Also, more existing deficiencies will be created which will increase the city's share of project costs. Finally, the potential revenue from developable land will decline as more of that land is developed without paying impact fees.

Passing the ordinance now does not in any way prevent future modifications to it, projects, or fee schedules that may arise from pursuing Council Person Rush's goals through a comprehensive public process. Impact fees lost are lost forever, as are any possible state or federal transportation funds that they could have matched and thus been obtained.

John Dietzman John Dietzman
North Indian Trail Neighborhood Council Co-Chairs

Ed Musser Ed Musser
Date: Jan 11, 2011