

WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Neighbors: Steve Bieri, Karen Carlberg (Chair), Rick Clapp (Treasurer), John Costello, Dwight Emerson, Mike Gifford (Vice-Chair), Karen Jurasin (Communications Director), Susan Mensching  
City staff: Annie Deasy (Community Programs Coordinator)  
Guests: Karl Otterstrom (Spokane Transit), Zack Zappone (Candidate for State Legislature, District 6)

CANDIDATE FOR STATE LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT 6

The four candidates for the two District 6 State Representative positions were invited. Zack Zappone attended. We had a wide-ranging conversation about his thoughts on education, job training, health care, mental health, homelessness, taxes, and climate change.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BUS ROUTES: Karl Otterstrom, Director of Planning and Development, Spokane Transit

Spokane voters approved funding for Spokane Transit in 2016. Some of the improvements already have been implemented. More are coming.

STA continues to collect public input through their online survey and stakeholder meetings. If you haven't taken the survey yet, go to [spokanetransit.com/input](http://spokanetransit.com/input). The survey closes November 13.

The new City Line is in progress. It will go between Browne's Addition and Spokane Community College, serving downtown, Riverpoint Campus, and Gonzaga University along the way.

The pandemic reduced bus ridership and revenue. STA still is in good shape financially and can continue with improvements to routes, but will need to make changes more slowly than originally planned. Assessment and planning will continue through 2021, and implementation will continue through 2022.

Routes 60 and 61 are the ones that serve West Hills most directly. Both routes will change, partly because neither will serve Browne's Addition (which will be served by the City Line). Route 60 will go between downtown and the West Plains Transit Center, via Sunset Blvd, Spokane Airport, Spotted Rd, Geiger Blvd, and Amazon Fulfillment Center. Route 60 no longer will serve Browne's Addition or Airway Heights. Route 61 will go between downtown and Fairchild Air Force Base, via Sunset Blvd, Highway 2, and Airway Heights. Route 61 no longer will serve Browne's Addition or go into FAFB beyond its front gate. For West Hills, one result of these changes is that both 60 and 61 will go directly between Sunset Blvd and downtown without going through Browne's Addition.

If you would like a pdf of Karl's presentation email [westhills99224@gmail.com](mailto:westhills99224@gmail.com).

Questions for Karl:

Safety around downtown STA plaza: There already is good security. The new downtown police precinct will help. About 60% of riders are commuters.

Could the STA plaza move to a safer place? It needs to be downtown because downtown is so central to Spokane's geography.

Can a bus stop be added at F St and Sunset Blvd? STA has wanted to do this for years, but there are challenges with space and grade.

Increased ridership to Amazon? STA and Amazon have been working together to optimize both STA and Amazon schedules.

Covered shelters at bus stops: Can you build more? About 65% of riders already have shelters because shelters are placed where ridership is highest. Some bus stops are in places where there is no space for a shelter.

Status of light rail? Uncertain. Challenges with cost, geography, geology.

#### OPEN FORUM:

John Costello brought two concerns to the meeting: traffic on S F St between S Sunset Blvd and W Rosamond Ave, and truck noise on I-90.

S F St: Several children live on the block between W Sunset Blvd and W Rosamond Ave, and there are no sidewalks. Some drivers go too fast, and some fail to stop at the intersection of F and Rosamond. What can we do? We will request a mobile speed sign for next season. We could submit a traffic calming proposal the next time they are due. We can ask our neighborhood police officer about a police patrol.

I-90: When trucks use compression brakes while going down Sunset Hill on I-90, they create a very loud noise that spreads into the neighborhoods on either side of I-90. What can we do? This probably is a WashDOT issue, not a city issue. John will pursue this.

#### GOODBYE FROM ANNIE

Annie Deasy has been our Office of Neighborhood Services liaison for the last year or so. There has been a major reorganization of city departments, and ONS now has a new director, Carly Cortright. One consequence is that the ONS neighborhood liaisons have been reassigned. Annica Eagle will be the new West Hills liaison starting November 1. Annie thanked us for being a good neighborhood to work with.

APPROVED February 9, 2021