



What, and who, is COMPASS?

The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is an association of local governments working together to plan for the future of the Treasure Valley. The agency serves as the metropolitan planning organization for Ada and Canyon Counties, Idaho, and is a voluntary, member-based organization operating under a Joint Powers Agreement.

The COMPASS Board of Directors, representing COMPASS member agencies and comprised mainly of local elected officials, serves as a regional forum for making decisions about transportation and related planning and sets priorities for spending federal transportation funds. **Each member agency has a voice in the decision-making process and has access to the people and technical resources that inform that process.**

COMPASS staff use state-of-the-art technology and work closely with member agency staff to collect data, analyze regional trends, and develop recommendations for the COMPASS Board of Directors.

To request a member service

- Use the online services request form at www.compassidaho.org/people/requestserviceform.htm
- Call (208) 855-2558 to be connected to a staff member who can assist you.
- Complete a “general membership services member request form.” These forms are sent to COMPASS member agencies once a year for larger requests (generally needing more than 32 hours of staff time) to ensure they are planned for in the overall COMPASS budget. Call 208/855-2558 and ask for “accounting” for more information.

Not a member?

COMPASS can provide many of these same services for you at a nominal cost.

Questions? Want to learn more?

Visit: www.compassidaho.org
Email: info@compassidaho.org
Call: (208) 855-2558



COMPASS
COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION
of Southwest Idaho

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MEMBER BENEFITS



Why Belong to COMPASS?



A Regional Voice

COMPASS is the only regional forum in southwest Idaho where membership is open to any public agency. Bringing together cities, counties, highway districts, state agencies, and others, COMPASS evaluates and coordinates planning and policies, makes decisions regarding the regional transportation system and land use, and ultimately impacts the quality of life of all Treasure Valley citizens.

As the metropolitan planning organization, COMPASS shapes the future of the region by directing where and how federal transportation funds will be spent in Ada and Canyon Counties. All areas in the United States with populations over 50,000 are required to establish metropolitan planning organizations, such as COMPASS, to make these regional decisions.

While COMPASS is mainly known for its role in transportation planning, policy, and funding as the area's metropolitan planning organization, COMPASS also has the authority and expertise to conduct and coordinate a variety of other planning services, at the discretion of the Board, including planning services relating to:

- Air and water quality
- Economic development
- Emergency management
- Land use, mapping, and geographic information systems (GIS)
- Population and employment
- Public services, facilities, and utilities
- Recreation, parks, and open space



A Seat at the Table

The COMPASS Board of Directors makes decisions that affect the entire region. Each member agency has a “seat at the table”—**a voice and a vote**—ensuring that their jurisdiction's needs and concerns are considered. Choosing not to participate leaves important regional decisions in the hands of others.

In addition to a seat on the COMPASS Board, COMPASS membership provides member agencies an opportunity to participate in the technical deliberations and recommendations that lead to key regional decisions.



COMPASS also retains a legislative and congressional liaison who communicates regional needs and priorities to Idaho's legislators and congressional delegation, and who keeps the COMPASS Board

up-to-date on key legislative issues that will affect COMPASS, the region, and member agencies.

COMPASS monitors transportation-related laws, policies, and funding opportunities, and keeps members informed of new federal and state initiatives, as well as federal grants and other opportunities for funding. COMPASS also can assist members in applying for transportation funding and supplies members with necessary letters of support when completing funding applications.



Membership Services

In addition to being a part of the decision-making process, member agencies have access to COMPASS services and data at no additional cost. The same state-of-the-art technology used by COMPASS for regional projects is available as a resource to members for individual projects, saving member agencies money, time, and resources.

Membership provides access to:



- Mapping and training/assistance
- Interactive and custom GIS analysis and visualization tools
- Analysis of economic benefits of proposed transportation projects
- Travel demand modeling
- Keypad polling technology and assistance
- Demographic data, estimates, and forecasts
- Orthophotography
- Traffic volume and congestion data
- Other planning, public involvement, and related tools, information, and expertise