



News Release
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Media Contact: Charles Trainor, 855-2558, ext 232

Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan Adopted by COMPASS Board

***Communities in Motion* presents the planned transportation system for Ada and Canyon Counties for the year 2035**

Meridian, ID – The Board of Directors of the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) unanimously approved *Communities in Motion* as the regional long-range transportation plan for Ada and Canyon Counties at its September 20, 2010, Board meeting.

Communities in Motion presents the planned transportation system – roads and transit – for Ada and Canyon Counties for the year 2035.

A long-range transportation plan is required by law for an area to receive federal transportation funds and must be updated and adopted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) every four years. COMPASS is the MPO for Ada and Canyon Counties. *Communities in Motion* was originally adopted by the COMPASS Board in 2006; the 2010 version is an update.

Many aspects of the plan remain unchanged since 2006, most notably the “Community Choices” growth scenario upon which the plan is based. This scenario was developed based upon extensive public outreach and approved by the COMPASS Board in 2006. The Board reconfirmed this vision in 2010. The name reflects choice in housing types and in transportation modes. It is the growth pattern to be supported by public investments in transportation shown in the plan.

Some portions of the plan have changed. The most significant changes occur in the planned transportation system itself. “By law, we can only plan for projects that can be paid for,” explains COMPASS Principal Planner Charles Trainor. “The plan identifies many needed projects, which are divided into ‘funded’ and ‘unfunded’ categories based upon financial resources and plans of local agencies. Only ‘funded’ projects can be shown as part of the planned transportation system.”

“The funding outlook is more bleak than in 2006, so some projects shown as ‘funded’ in 2006 are now shown as ‘unfunded,’ or not part of the planned transportation system” explains Trainor. “However, this does not mean those ‘unfunded’ projects are any less important than they were before; there simply isn’t money to do them. We can and will work to secure funding for those projects; if funding becomes available, the plan can be amended.”

The next update is due in 2014; preparations for that update will begin almost immediately.

The final draft of the plan, as presented to the COMPASS Board, can be found online at www.compassidaho.org/people/cim2035_finaldraft.htm. The plan will now be prepared for printing and will be available for distribution later this fall.

800 S. Industry Way, Ste 100

Meridian, ID 83642

P. 208.855.2558

F. 208.855.2559

www.compassidaho.org