



News Release

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COMPASS Looking for Hosts for "Meeting in a Bag" Discussion Groups

Meridian, ID – The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is looking for individuals to host "meeting in a bag" discussion groups to provide feedback into a draft update of the Treasure Valley's regional long-range transportation plan, *Communities in Motion*.

The plan helps ensure our transportation system is ready for the future; it determines how and where transportation funds are spent, which will affect Treasure Valley citizens and communities for many years to come.

The current plan, adopted in 2006, plans out to the year 2030. The updated plan must be completed by the end of August and will look forward to 2035. The "meeting in a bag" concept was first used to receive feedback into the draft 2006 *Communities in Motion* plan and was well received by participants.

In a "meeting in a bag" discussion group, residents of Ada and Canyon Counties get together with friends, coworkers, or neighbors to discuss the update of *Communities in Motion* and provide comments on the draft back to COMPASS.

Hosting a "meeting in a bag" is a simple process:

- An individual signs up to host a meeting.
- The host picks a time/date/location and organizes the meeting in whatever manner he or she chooses...a meeting with coworkers over lunch, dessert with the neighbors, a potluck brunch on the patio.
- The host invites friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc. to the meeting.
- COMPASS provides the host with the meeting materials (yes, in a bag!) including a DVD, the draft plan update and summaries, a map showing the planned transportation system, comment forms, a host instruction booklet, and more.
- The host holds the meeting. Participants watch the DVD, read the summaries, explore the other materials, discuss what they've learned, and provide feedback to COMPASS via comment forms.
- The host mails the comment forms back to COMPASS.

Meetings must be held before June 15, 2010.

The meetings require little preparation, are informal, and require no prior familiarity with COMPASS, *Communities in Motion*, planning, or transportation – just a desire to be part of the planning process.

To say "thanks," hosts will be entered in a drawing for one of two digital video cameras and participants will be entered in a drawing for one of 10, \$50 movie theatre gift cards.

To sign up or learn more, call 855-2558 ext. 231 or log on to:
www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2035-update.htm.

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