



News Release

May 10, 2010

Media Contact: Amy Luft, 855-2558, ext 231

COMPASS Seeks Comments on Update of Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan

Meridian, ID – The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is seeking public comment on the update of *Communities in Motion*, the regional long-range transportation plan for Ada and Canyon Counties.

Communities in Motion describes how Ada and Canyon Counties are likely to grow over the next 20+ years and outlines the transportation system planned to accommodate that growth. An approved long-range transportation plan is required for a region to receive federal transportation funds.

The plan must be updated every four years; the current plan was approved in August 2006, so an update must be complete and approved no later than August 2010. A draft of the updated plan is available for public comment through June 18, 2010.

"The current (2006) plan provides a vision for growth in the Treasure Valley developed through extensive public involvement in 2004 and 2005. This vision promotes more compact development than has occurred in the past and encourages jobs, shopping, and services close to housing," states COMPASS Principal Planner Charles Trainor. The planned transportation system reflects this vision.

The updated (2010) plan follows this same vision, but with some changes regarding what is included in the plan and what the valley's transportation system will look like.

These changes include:

- Fewer projects, or improvements, in the planned transportation system, as only projects with a likelihood of funding can be included
- Changes in the "functional classification" of some roads (functional classification defines the type and amount of use a road is designed for)
- Additional chapters on transit, safety, freight, environmental, and other issues, due to changes in federal planning requirements

"The most significant difference between the 2006 and 2010 plans is in the planned transportation system," emphasizes Trainor. "By law, we cannot include projects we have no way of paying for. As costs rise, and revenues do not, there is less we can afford. The end result is that many of the projects envisioned in 2006 have had to be removed."

"However, we are still allowed to show those unfunded projects in the plan as part of the *needed* (but not planned) transportation system, so they have not disappeared completely. We hope to be able to bring some projects back in the next update in 2014 if funding options improve," explains Trainor.

View the draft plan, provide comments, and find additional opportunities for involvement online at www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2035-update.htm.

800 S. Industry Way, Ste 100

Meridian, ID 83642

P. 208.855.2558

F. 208.855.2559

www.compassidaho.org