

News Release

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COMPASS Board Confirms Board Officers

Board also endorses Idaho Transportation Department's legislative package for enhancing transportation revenues

Meridian – The Board of Directors of the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) confirmed the following Board officers at their meeting on Monday, January 22, 2007:

- Chair -- Mayor Tom Dale (Nampa)
- Chair-elect -- Commissioner John Franden (Ada County Highway District)
- Vice Chair -- Mayor Garret Nancolas (Caldwell)
- Secretary Treasurer – Mayor Dave Bieter (Boise)

The Board officers serve on the COMPASS Executive Committee to provide policy-based leadership for COMPASS, an agency committed to excellence in regional transportation planning. "This leadership team is exceptionally strong," noted Matt Stoll, COMPASS Executive Director. "As a group they bring years of experience to the Board. As long-standing members of COMPASS they have worked closely with the growth and transportation issues facing our region and I believe they will continue to provide thoughtful and effective leadership."

In addition to the election of the Board officers, Mayor Nancy Merrill (Eagle) and Mayor Frank McKeever (Middleton) were elected to represent cities under 25,000 in Ada County and Canyon County on the COMPASS Executive Committee.

Funding package

The COMPASS Board of Directors also endorsed the introduction of legislation to increase revenue for the transportation system including transit and alternative transportation modes in the State of Idaho because a functional transportation system is critical to accommodate the population growth and economic development of the Treasure Valley and State of Idaho. In 2006 the Idaho Transportation Department convened the Forum on Transportation Investment, which identified a \$200 million per year shortfall for critical local and state transportation projects over the next 30 years.

Proposed funding plans to be introduced include a 7% tax on the base fuel price per gallon, the elimination of the exemption on ethanol, vehicle registration fees, a tax on rental cars of 3%, an increase of fees for Division of Motor Vehicles by 75%, and require local units of government to collect and expend impact fees when it is determined that a proposed development affects a roadway under the jurisdiction of the Idaho Transportation Department.

The COMPASS Board also strongly supports the Idaho Transportation Department's proposed GARVEE-related project and funding package of \$264.3 million.



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