



News Release

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COMPASS Board Approves 10% Reduction in Membership Dues

Meridian, ID – The Board of Directors of the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) voted to decrease membership dues by 10% for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 at its June 15, 2009, Board meeting.

COMPASS is an association of local governments in Ada and Canyon Counties. A little over 20% of the COMPASS annual budget is derived from dues from member agencies, such as local cities, counties, highway districts, and other public agencies. The dues structure is based upon population; that is, larger municipalities pay more in dues than smaller ones. The remainder of the COMPASS budget comes from federal grants and project-specific funding.

The reduction in dues comes in response to current economic conditions. "Our member agencies are seeing reduced revenues and budgets, and in some cases are having to lay off employees," states COMPASS Executive Director Matt Stoll. "This reduction in dues should help ease some of the financial strain our member agencies are experiencing."

The 10% dues reduction will go into effect immediately for fiscal year 2009, and will be retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year (October 2008). Stoll explains, "This allows our member agencies to gain the benefit of the dues reduction immediately. COMPASS staff have found ways to cut expenses during the remainder of the year to absorb this reduction." The 10% dues reduction will also be in effect for fiscal year 2010.

Ada County Highway District Commissioner and COMPASS Secretary/Treasurer Carol McKee explains, "We carefully weighed the tradeoffs between the financial benefits our own local agencies would gain from reduced dues and the impact a reduced budget would have on COMPASS and on the services it provides. At this time, the Board felt the dues reduction was the right action to take."

"This dues reduction highlights COMPASS' role as an association of governments," adds Caldwell Mayor and COMPASS Board Chair Garret Nancolas. "We, the local governments, are COMPASS. The decisions we make as COMPASS affect not only the individual local agencies we represent, but the entire region."

"We do recognize that a 10% reduction in COMPASS dues will not make a significant impact on any one agency's budget," continues Nancolas, "but every little bit helps. In addition, this reduction goes beyond simply finances. It is also an expression of solidarity: we are all in this together."

The next COMPASS Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2009, at 1:30 p.m., in Meridian City Hall.

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