

## COMPASS Board Recommends Stimulus Projects

*Meridian, ID* – The Board of Directors of the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) approved seven projects for application for funding through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program at its July 20, 2009, Board meeting.

The TIGER program, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus), will disburse a total of \$1.5 billion nationwide through a competitive application process. The maximum amount any one state can receive is \$300 million.

Of the seven projects approved, three fall under the jurisdiction of local agencies and four under the jurisdiction of the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). The following projects were approved for recommendation by the COMPASS Board:

### Local Projects

- Public transportation group project (Valley Regional Transit; group of 10 individual projects)
- Downtown Boise circulator (City of Boise)
- Franklin Road, Five Mile Road to Touchmark Way, widening and improvements (Ada County Highway District)

### ITD Projects

- Meridian Road interchange rebuild
- Eagle Road (State Highway 55) improvements
- I-84 , Franklin Boulevard to Karcher Road, add additional lanes and rebuild overpass
- Interagency Regional Operations Center

“The approval of the COMPASS Board is just one step in the application process,” explains COMPASS Executive Director Matt Stoll. ITD and local agencies must complete and submit an application for each project. COMPASS will provide letters of support for the local projects and will submit its priorities to ITD regarding the four recommended state projects in Ada and Canyon Counties.

“This is a competitive process nationwide,” stresses Stoll. “Each project will be judged based on its own merits and compared to other projects from other states. There is no guarantee of funding. However, we are guaranteed that if we *don't* apply, we won't get funded.”

In other business, the Board approved roadway projects for consideration in ITD's “end of year plan” and approved an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program that will allow previously approved funds to be carried over into the current fiscal year. The Board was also briefed on several issues that will be brought before the Board for vote at future meetings.

The next COMPASS Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2009, at 1:30 p.m., in Meridian City Hall.

