



News Release

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PUBLIC INVITED TO ‘MAKING CONNECTIONS’ TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE NOV. 13

Meridian - The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) and Boise State University’s Public Policy Center will host “Making Connections: A Conference on Transportation Funding, Land Use and Politics,” Thursday, Nov. 13.

The keynote speaker for the all-day conference is Robert Puentes, a fellow with the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, which is redefining the challenges facing cities and suburbs in America and promoting innovative solutions to help communities grow in more inclusive, competitive and sustainable ways.

“Like many states and regions in the country, Idaho is facing a crisis in funding its transportation infrastructure,” said Susan Mason, an assistant professor of political science at Boise State and director of the university’s community and regional planning program. “The conference will identify problems, place them in context, and address possible solutions.”

The conference starts at 9 a.m. in the Student Union Jordan Ballroom on the Boise State campus. Puentes’ speech, which begins at 6:30 p.m., will conclude the conference. Attendance is free. To register, call 208-855-2558, ext. 222, or e-mail msampson@compassidaho.org. Free parking is available in the Lincoln Avenue parking garage; enter from Belmont Street.

Puentes will address transportation accessibility, connectivity, and mobility issues that are affecting the prosperity and vitality of the nation and its metropolitan areas. His work focuses on the broad array of policies and issues related to metropolitan growth and development. His recent publications include “One-Fifth of America: A Comprehensive Guide to America’s First Suburbs,” with David Warren (2006) and “Taking the High Road: A Metropolitan Agenda for Transportation Reform,” with Bruce Katz (2005), among many others.

“The goal of this conference is to bring the community together to learn about ways to address the critical state of our transportation infrastructure and funding system,” COMPASS Executive Director Matt Stoll said. “Participants will be able to ask questions and hear detailed answers of our expert panels during the conference sessions.”

Conference sessions include:

- 9 a.m.: Opening comments by John Franden, COMPASS Chairman and ACHD Commissioner and Stephanie Witt, Boise State University Professor and Director of the Public Policy Center.

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- 10:15 a.m.: Funding/Financial panel discussion moderated by David Bieter, COMPASS Vice Chair and Mayor of Boise. Guests include Pam Lowe, Idaho Transportation Department director; Jennifer Schaufele, Denver Regional Council of Governments executive director; Charlie Hales, HDR Corp. senior vice president; and Carlotta Collette, Portland METRO councilor.
- 1:45 p.m.: Land Use/Transportation panel discussion moderated by Susan Mason, Boise State University. Guests include Rachel Weinberger, University of Pennsylvania Department of City and Regional Planning; Eric Lindquist, Texas A&M George Bush School of Government and Public Service; and Derek O'Neill, O'Neill Enterprises in Boise.
- 3:30 p.m.: Politics/Decision-making panel discussion moderated by Jim Weatherby. Guests include U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson; Clete Edmunson, Gov. Otter's special assistant for transportation and education; State Sen. John McGee, and State Rep. Mike Moyle (invited).
- 6:30 p.m.: Keynote address from Robert Puentes, Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

For more information go to www.compassidaho.org

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