



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 20, 2008

**Contact:**

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## *COMPASS Seeks Public Comment on Regional Transportation Projects*

Project information will be on display at COMPASS on July 16, 2008

*Meridian* – The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) seeks public comment on transportation projects proposed for the next five years in Ada and Canyon counties as listed in the *Draft FY2009-2013 Regional Transportation Improvement Programs*, and the required *Air Quality Conformity Demonstration for Northern Ada County*. Documents will be available for review beginning June 23, 2008, and comments will be accepted from June 23 through July 22, 2008.

*Transportation Improvement Programs* allocate limited federal transportation funds for projects such as highways, transit, pathways, rail crossings, vanpooling, and other public transportation options.

The *Air Quality Conformity Demonstration* is required for air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas, such as Northern Ada County, and demonstrates that projects listed in the *Transportation Improvement Program* and the regional long-range transportation plan, *Communities in Motion*, will comply with state air quality plans. Federal approval of the *Air Quality Conformity Demonstration* is necessary to obtain final approval of the *Transportation Improvement Program* in Northern Ada County.

Project lists and maps will be on display for public review:

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

COMPASS

800 S. Industry Way, Suite 100 -- Meridian, ID

For a draft copy of *Transportation Improvement Programs* or the *Air Quality Conformity Demonstration for Northern Ada County*, and for directions to COMPASS, visit the COMPASS website <http://www.compassidaho.org>, or call 855-2558, ext. 228.

Send written comments by July 22, 2008 to COMPASS, attn: Toni Tisdale, 800 S. Industry Way, Suite 100, Meridian, Idaho, 83642, or [ttisdale@compassidaho.org](mailto:ttisdale@compassidaho.org), or fax to 855-2559.

For special assistance, please call 855-2558, ext. 225 forty-eight (48) hours in advance. *Personas que necesitan asistencia especial para la junta, favor de llamar al numero 855-2558 con 48 horas de aviso.*

**More**

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## FACT SHEET TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

COMPASS prepares and adopts the TIP every year in cooperation with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), local highway districts, local governments, and other project sponsors. What is the TIP?

- 1) The TIP is a five-year schedule and cost estimate of federally-funded and regionally significant transportation projects within Ada and Canyon counties.
  
- 2) The TIP is an extension of the long-range transportation plan. The long-range plan suggests transportation improvements needed in the region over the next 25 years. The TIP illustrates those projects listed for funding and construction in the short-term. A project cannot be in the TIP without first appearing in the long-range plan.
  
- 3) The TIP is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation so that our region can receive money from the federal government for transportation projects. A transportation improvement is not eligible for federal funding unless it is listed in the TIP.
  
- 4) The TIP is a plan for improving the transportation system that must also meet air quality improvement standards for Northern Ada County, where air quality has been a concern.

### *What is COMPASS?*

COMPASS is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Ada and Canyon counties, with responsibility for transportation planning and allocation of federal transportation funding. The COMPASS Board consists of elected officials representing cities, counties, the transit authority, highway districts, and special districts in the two-county region.

[www.compassidaho.org](http://www.compassidaho.org)