



News Release

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COMPASS Board Approves Transportation Plan

Communities in Motion: Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan is adopted at monthly meeting

Meridian – The Board of the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) approved *Communities in Motion: Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan* at its monthly Board meeting on August 21, 2006. *Communities in Motion* is the six-county, 20+ year plan that addresses the regional transportation system, the need for future corridors, and the effects of growth on transportation.

Dave Bieter, Mayor of Boise, commended the effort, noting that the *Communities in Motion* planning process was an “unprecedented effort with more public outreach and more work toward integrating land use and transportation” than has been done with previous plans. Tammy de Weerd, Mayor of Meridian and Chair of the COMPASS Board, acknowledged the tenacity and endurance of the organization and its members in completing the plan. Matt Stoll, Executive Director of COMPASS, noted that the hard work is to implement the vision, particularly in moving forward with a \$1.6 billion shortfall. Tom Dale, Mayor of Nampa, agreed that it is a vision that needs to be shared and worked toward.

The general public reviewed the plan in April and May, and of those who provided comment, 72% favored the plan. The majority supported:

- A regional transit system with walking and biking paths;
- The new growth scenario, particularly keeping jobs, services and homes closer together;
- Increased taxes, including for public transportation; and
- Improvement to regional corridors.

More information about the plan can be found at www.communitiesinmotion.org. COMPASS will release final copies of the plan, an executive summary and a CD-ROM in early 2007.

In addition to *Communities in Motion*, the COMPASS Board approved and adopted the recommendations of the Coalition on Regional Public Transportation. The Coalition is a group of business leaders and local officials who are concerned about the future of public transportation in the region. The Coalition recommends seeking a local option sales tax in partial fulfillment of the policies in *Communities in Motion* and as the appropriate method of funding Valley Regional Transit’s (VRT) regional public transportation plan. For more information on the Coalition, contact Kelli Fairless, 846-8547.

The Board also approved the FY2007 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget, and released for public comment the draft revision of the agency’s Public Involvement Policy. The public is encouraged to comment on the policy through October 6, 2006.

END

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