



# News Release

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Contact:  
Terri Schorzman, 855-2558, ext 231

## ***COMPASS Board Announces Positions on Legislative Issues*** Board also elects new officers, approves strategic plan

**Boise** – The Board of the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS), at their monthly meeting on January 23, 2006, announced position statements regarding several key issues facing the 2006 Idaho State Legislature.

### ***Legislative Positions***

#### ***10% Ethanol Blended Fuel Requirement***

The COMPASS Board of Directors supports the concept of requiring a 10% ethanol blend as a means to promote further development of renewable fuels. The Highway Distribution Account must be held harmless by immediately eliminating the existing exemption for ethanol or offsetting lost revenue through other state revenues. It is critical that the Idaho Farm Bureau coordinate with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in the implementation of the legislation to ensure Treasure Valley air quality is not harmed.

#### ***First Year Funding Approval of GARVEE Bonding Program***

The COMPASS Board of Directors supports the Idaho Transportation Department's proposed GARVEE-related project and funding package. The GARVEE program is a critical tool in Idaho's efforts to meet the challenges and demands of a growing economy and population. While the GARVEE program is not the solution to all of Idaho's transportation needs, it does allow the Idaho Transportation Department to expedite critical projects in a cost efficient manner with limited available revenue.

#### ***Property Tax Legislation***

The COMPASS Board of Directors supports legislative action that would provide property tax reform for Treasure Valley citizens while ensuring sufficient revenue to fund the transportation infrastructure needs of a rapidly growing state and region.

#### ***Public Transportation Policy***

The COMPASS Board of Directors supports the addition of language in Idaho Code expressing support for public transportation services in Idaho. The Board also encourages the legislature to support local funding options, excluding property tax, needed by public transportation providers across the state.

#### ***Eminent Domain***

The COMPASS Board of Directors will monitor proposed eminent domain legislation to ensure local governments will retain this critical tool in providing necessary transportation infrastructure within their jurisdictions.

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800 S. Industry Way, Ste 100

Meridian, ID 83642

P. 208.855.2558

F. 208.855.2559

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

### ***New Board Officers:***

The Board elected new officers. They are:

Chair	Tammy de Weerd, Mayor of Meridian
Chair-elect	Tom Dale, Mayor of Nampa
Vice-chair	John Franden, President, Ada County Highway District
Secretary-Treasurer	Garret Nancolas, Mayor of Caldwell

### ***Strategic Plan***

The Board also approved a new strategic plan for the agency, "Working Together to Plan for the Future." Support of the strategic plan included the agency's vision and mission, core values, work teams, and defined goals, objectives, and tasks. The plan will also influence the development of the agency's "unified planning work program and budget," which directs the work flow of federally-mandated organizations such as COMPASS.

COMPASS Board and staff work in four main areas.

***Communications and Public Awareness*** encourages greater agency effort to reach residents of Southwest Idaho, and supports the implementation of an integrated communications plan. Public involvement, community collaboration, education opportunities, and media relations are components of this goal.

***People and Structure*** reflects the need for a comprehensive strategy in managing and growing the organization. This includes Board, staff, committees, documents, financial stability/budget, and human resources.

***Planning Excellence and Collaboration*** ensures collaboration with member agencies and other jurisdictions so that each can share knowledge about comprehensive plans, access management guidebooks, ordinances, land use regulations, regional studies, conferences, and resources.

***Products and Services*** support regional transportation planning, including long-range transportation plans, transportation improvement programs, regional studies, congestion management system, unified planning work program and budget, transportation modeling, air quality analysis, demographics, and geographic information systems.

### ***Vision and Mission***

***Vision*** -- COMPASS is a widely respected forum that helps establish a healthy, economically vibrant region, offering people choices in how and where they live, work, play, and travel through the planning and support of a comprehensive multi-modal transportation system. (Board adopted March 10, 2005)

***Mission*** -- The mission of COMPASS is to develop transportation plans and priorities and assess related impacts in order for members to access state and federal transportation funds and respond to regional needs for information and expertise. (Board adopted July 19, 2004)

***End***

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