



News Release

May 7, 2009

Media Contact: Amy Luft, 855-2558, ext 231

Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan, *Communities in Motion*, Update Underway

Meridian, ID – The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is beginning the process of updating *Communities in Motion*, the regional long-range transportation plan for southwest Idaho. The current plan was adopted by the COMPASS Board of Directors in August 2006; it must be updated and re-adopted every four years. The current version of *Communities in Motion* is available online at www.communitiesinmotion.org/data.html.

Communities in Motion is a 20+ year plan that addresses regional transportation issues, examines transportation funding, evaluates the needs for future transportation corridors, and addresses the effects of growth on transportation. The plan will impact how the Treasure Valley will grow and how transportation funding will be allocated locally over the next 20 to 30 years.

To update the plan, staff will examine how the region may develop over the next 20 to 30 years based upon projected population and employment growth, current and future transportation needs, safety, financial capacity, and preservation of the human and natural environment.

"Public input and involvement are extremely important in the planning process," states COMPASS Director of Planning Charles Trainor. "As transportation revenues continue to be stretched tighter and tighter, we are looking for input from the public regarding where and how they want to see those funds spent," continues Trainor. "There simply are not enough funds to build or develop everything that is needed or wanted to accommodate growth in the Treasure Valley."

COMPASS will begin its public involvement effort this spring with a series of presentations to community groups and interested parties to raise awareness of the plan and the planning process.

This summer, COMPASS will be conducting focus groups to gain detailed insight into the public's needs and wants for their transportation system. Over the next year and a half, COMPASS will continue to keep the public informed of progress and invite feedback. Public involvement plans include hosting open houses to share information and gain feedback, placing displays highlighting the planning process in public facilities throughout the valley, and email/Web updates and surveys.

Feedback will be solicited throughout the planning process and as the final plan is nearing completion. The plan is expected to be completed by August 2010.

For questions, or to schedule a presentation, be added to the *Communities in Motion* email update list, or be involved in the *Communities in Motion* update in some other way, contact COMPASS Communication Coordinator, Amy Luft, at aluft@compassidaho.org or (208) 855-2558 x 231.

800 S. Industry Way, Ste 100

Meridian, ID 83642

P. 208.855.2558

F. 208.855.2559

www.compassidaho.org