



News Release

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

No Vehicle? Can't Drive? COMPASS Wants to Hear from You

Meridian, ID – Are you stuck at home without use of a vehicle? Do you rely on help from others, use public transportation, or walk or bike to get around? Is it difficult to get around your community without a vehicle?

If any of these apply to you, the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) wants to hear from you. Please share your experiences:

- Attend an open house. Visit www.compassidaho.org/mm to find one in your area.
- Take a survey. (Available in both English and Spanish.)
 - Online at www.compassidaho.org/mm.
 - Request a paper copy by calling 208/855-2558 ext 238.

COMPASS is developing guidelines to assist planners and developers in designing and building neighborhoods and communities that are easier to navigate for those who cannot or do not rely on a personal vehicle for daily travel.

The primary focus is to gather information from individuals who cannot use a vehicle, or don't have access to one, such as the elderly, individuals with low incomes, and the disabled. However, feedback from individuals who work with or represent these groups or from individuals who do not use a vehicle by choice is also encouraged.

"The first step in this process is to hear from those who can't rely on a car to get around," explains Liisa Itkonen, COMPASS Senior Planner. "We want to know where people typically go and how they get there if they don't have a car – for instance do they take a bus, walk, rely on others to drive them? We also want to know if they are homebound and can't get around at all."

This information will help planners learn what barriers exist to getting around without a car and what services are and are *not* being used, and why. Itkonen explains, "Do people want to walk, but can't because the sidewalks aren't safe? Do people use public transportation? Do they know if it is available to them?"

Once COMPASS staff have heard from individuals about their transportation needs and options, they will compile the information and use it in developing a draft guidebook, which will then be presented to planners, developers, and others for feedback before the guidelines are made final.

Please contact COMPASS at 208/855-2558 ext 238 with questions or special needs or to request a paper survey. The surveys will be available online and in paper form through the end of May.

800 S. Industry Way, Ste 100

Meridian, ID 83642

P. 208.855.2558

F. 208.855.2559

www.compassidaho.org