

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 20, 2010 2:00-3:30 PM
COMPASS CONFERENCE ROOM

**** AGENDA ****



I. Agenda Additions/Changes

II. Open Discussion/Announcements

III. Consent Agenda

Page 2 *A. **Approve May 18, 2010, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes.**

A copy of the draft May 18, 2010, Executive Committee meeting minutes is attached.

IV. Action Items

Page 6 *A. **Establish August 16, 2010, COMPASS Board Meeting Agenda**

Staff proposed agenda items for the regularly scheduled August 16, 2010, Board meeting are attached.

B. Approve Board Member Travel Request

Staff will present a request to reimburse air travel costs for Councilmember Clegg to attend a national forum on performance-based transportation planning and programming in Dallas, Texas from September 13-15, 2010. The forum is by invitation only and Councilmember Clegg was invited in her role as a COMPASS Board Member on the AMPO Board of Directors.

V. Information/Discussion Items

A. Status Report – COMPASS Administrative Building Acquisition

MDC representatives will discuss the status of the project.

Page 11 *B. **Review Draft Report from May 17, 2010, COMPASS Board Retreat**

Staff will review the draft report from this year's COMPASS Board Retreat.

C. Status Report – Congressman Minnick Request

Staff will review status of response to request from Congressman Minnick.

VI. Other

VII. Adjournment

*Enclosures

Agenda is subject to change.

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 18, 2010
COMPASS CONFERENCE ROOM**



****MINUTES****

ATTENDEES: Dave Bieter, Mayor, City of Boise, **Chair (via telephone)**
Keith Bird, Councilman, for Tammy de Weerd, Mayor, City of Meridian **(via telephone)**
Tom Dale, Mayor, City of Nampa
David Ferdinand, Commissioner, Canyon County, **Chair Elect**
Carol McKee, Commissioner, Ada County Highway District, **Vice Chair (via telephone)**
Bryce Millar, Commissioner, Nampa Highway District #1, **Secretary/Treasurer (via telephone)**
Garret Nancolas, Mayor, City of Caldwell, **Immediate Past Chair**
Matt Stoll, Executive Director, Community Planning Association, Ex officio

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nathan Mitchell, Mayor, City of Star
Vicki Thurber, Mayor, City of Middleton
Fred Tilman, Commissioner, Ada County

OTHERS PRESENT: Nancy Brecks, Community Planning Association
Ken Burgess, Veritas Advisors
Sally Goodell, Ada County Highway District
Amy Luft, Community Planning Association
Jeanne Urlezaga, Community Planning Association

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chair McKee called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

None.

OPEN DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve April 20, 2010, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and May 4, 2010, Special Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tom Dale moved and Keith Bird seconded approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Establish June 21, 2010 and July 19, 2010, COMPASS Board Meeting Agendas**

Matt Stoll stated that because there will not be a June 2010 Executive Committee meeting, the committee is being asked to approve agenda items for both the June and July 2010 Board meetings. Agenda Items 1-14 are standard items and are being proposed for both the June 21, 2010 and July 19, 2010 Board meetings. Matt reviewed staff proposed Agenda Items 15-24 for the June 21, 2010, and Agenda Items 25-31 for the July 19, 2010, COMPASS Board meetings. Matt requested latitude to amend the agendas as necessary.

After discussion, **David Ferdinand moved and Tom Dale seconded approval of Agenda Items 1-24 for the June 21, 2010 COMPASS Board meeting and Agenda Items 1-14, 25-31 for the July 19, 2010, COMPASS Board meeting as presented. Matt Stoll has the latitude to amend the agendas as necessary. Motion passed unanimously**

- B. Provide Staff Direction on Possible Air Quality Education Outreach Effort**

Matt Stoll recapped discussions that have been occurring regarding possible air quality educational outreach efforts, separate from emission testing, which would inform the public on what they can do to be proactively involved in addressing the air quality challenges in the Treasure Valley.

Matt stated that there needs to be a partnership between the business community and local governments as both have a stake in the issue. If the area goes into non-attainment, economic development will be inhibited with the additional requirements that will be mandated on industry and individual taxpayers.

After discussion, **by unanimous consent Matt Stoll was directed to move forward and explore what options are already available for financing; develop a recommended scope of work; identify the players, both private and local governments; determine how the funding could be set up; and identify cost efficiencies to be had by using existing educational materials.**

Matt noted that he will bring the requested information back to the Executive Committee based on a multi-year funding proposal.

C. Authorize Correspondence Requesting Idaho Congressional Delegation Support of “Livable Communities Act”

Matt Stoll reviewed proposed correspondence requesting Idaho Congressional Delegation support of the “Livable Communities Act.” Matt noted that it unclear at this time if the funding for this effort is existing funding being moved in an effort to be more efficient or if it is new funding.

After discussion, **Dave Bieter moved and David Ferdinand seconded approval of the proposed correspondence after Matt Stoll identifies the source of the funding, and only if the funding has already been appropriated. Matt was directed to update the Executive Committee via email. Motion passed unanimously.**

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Status Report – Governor’s Task Force on Modernizing Transportation Funding in Idaho

Ken Burgess reviewed the Governor’s Task Force activities and discussed issues relevant to local governments.

After discussion, **Ken was directed to coordinate a meeting between the COMPASS Board officers or the full Executive Committee and Public Transportation Subcommittee Chair David Bennion.**

B. Discuss Distribution Mode of COMPASS Board Packets

Matt Stoll reviewed potential financial savings of converting Board packet distribution from a hard copy format to an electronic format.

After discussion, **there were no objections to moving forward with distribution of the COMPASS Board packets via an electronic format. Only agendas will be provided at the Board meetings.**

ADJOURNMENT

Garret Nancolas moved and Keith Bird seconded adjournment at 3:05 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Dated this 20th day of July 2010.

Approved:

By: _____
Dave Bieter, Chair
Community Planning Association

Attest:

By: _____
Matthew J. Stoll, Executive Director
Community Planning Association

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKSHEET FOR COMPASS BOARD AGENDA

ITEM IV-A

Item #	Title/Description	Mandatory¹	Policy Implications/Requirements	Agenda Type²	Time	Presenter	Proposed Agenda	RTAC Agenda	Program No.
1.	Approve Minutes from most recent Board Meeting	Yes	Meets Idaho Code and various grant requirements.	Consent Agenda	N/A	N/A	Monthly	N/A	820
2.	Receive Minutes from most recent Executive Committee Meeting	Yes	Meets Idaho Code and various grant requirements.	Consent Agenda	N/A	N/A	Monthly	N/A	820
3.	Receive Minutes from most recent Finance Committee Meeting	Yes	Required by the Board's mission statement for the Committee.	Consent Agenda	N/A	N/A	As Appropriate	N/A	820
4.	Status Report – Finance Committee Update	No	The Finance Committee Chair will provide an oral status report.	Information/ Discussion	10	Chair	As Appropriate	N/A	820
5.	Status Report – Legislative Issues	No	Legislative consultant team will provide a monthly report on federal and state legislative issues identified as priorities by the Board.	Ex. Dir. Report	N/A	Ken Burgess	Monthly	N/A	760
6.	Status Report – Corridor Studies	No	Don Matson will provide a monthly report on the status of the Corridor Studies.	Ex. Dir. Report	N/A	N/A	Monthly	N/A	610, 611
7.	Status Report – Current Air Quality Issues	No	Mary Ann Waldinger will provide a monthly report of current air quality issues.	Ex. Dir. Report	N/A	N/A	Monthly	N/A	801
8.	Status Report – Current Transportation Project Information	No	Toni Tisdale will provide a monthly report of current transportation issues and projects.	Ex. Dir. Report	N/A	N/A	Monthly	Monthly	685
9.	Status Report – Standing Committees' Attendance	No	Per Board request of May 17, 2004.	Ex. Dir. Report	N/A	N/A	Monthly	N/A	820
10.	Status Report - <i>Communities in Motion</i>	Yes	Charles Trainor will provide a monthly report on the status of the update.	Ex. Dir. Report	N/A	N/A	Monthly	N/A	661

¹ No, Yes, N/A (Not Applicable)

² Action; Consent Agenda; Executive Director's Report; Information; Special Item; Committee Reports; Open Discussion/Announcements

Item #	Title/Description	Mandatory¹	Policy Implications/Requirements	Agenda Type²	Time	Presenter	Proposed Agenda	RTAC Agenda	Program No.
11.	Status Report – Mobility Management	No	Liisa Itkonen will provide updates on work under mobility management.	Ex. Dir. Report	N/A	N/A	As Appropriate	N/A	671 672
12.	Receive Administrative Modifications to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program	Yes	Toni Tisdale will provide memorandums of approval for Administrative Modifications.	Ex. Dir. Report	N/A	N/A	As Appropriate	N/A	685
13.	Status Report – Reauthorization /Appropriations	No	Ken Burgess will provide a report on the status of Reauthorization/Appropriations.	Special Item	N/A	N/A	As Appropriate	NA	685
14.	Status Report – Stimulus Funds	No	Toni Tisdale will provide a report on the status of Stimulus funds.	Special Item	N/A	N/A	As Appropriate	N/A	685
CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS									
15.	Adopt Resolution Approving the FY2011 Unified Planning Work Program-Final	Yes	Staff will present and request adoption of the FY2011 UPWP-Final.	Action	15	Matt Stoll	August	June	601
16.	Status Report – Finance Committee	No	The Finance Committee Chair will provide a status report of the August 12, 2010 meeting.	Information/ Discussion	10	Finance Chair	August	N/A	601
17.	Receive summary report from May 2010 Board retreat	No	Staff will present a report summarizing the discussions and potential steps forward resulting from the May Board retreat.	Information/ Discussion	20	Amy Luft	August	N/A	653
18.	Review Update to <i>Communities in Motion</i>	Yes	Staff will review changes made to the update to CIM in response to comments.	Information/ Discussion	30	Charles Trainor	August	July	661
19.	Review findings and recommendations of Idaho 44 Access Management Plan	No	Staff and consultant will present findings and recommendations in plan.	Information/ Discussion	15	Don Matson	August	CPC August	610
20.	Status Report – Annual Congestion Management Report for 2010	No	Staff will provide a status report regarding the annual Congestion Management data collection process report.	Ex. Dir. Report	N/A	N/A	August	N/A	842

<i>Item #</i>	<i>Title/Description</i>	<i>Mandatory</i> ¹	<i>Policy Implications/Requirements</i>	<i>Agenda Type</i> ²	<i>Time</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Proposed Agenda</i>	<i>RTAC Agenda</i>	<i>Program No.</i>
UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS									
21.	Approve Idaho 44 Access Management Plan	No	Staff will seek acceptance Access Management Plan.	Consent Agenda	N/A	Don Matson	September	CPC August	610
22.	Approve the Final FY2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program	Yes	Staff requests final approval of the FY2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program.	Action	15	Toni Tisdale	September	August	685
23.	Adopt Update to <i>Communities in Motion</i>	Yes	Staff requests adoption of the update to CIM via resolution.	Action	30	Charles Trainor	September	August	661
24.	Review findings and recommendations of Idaho 44 Corridor Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	No	Staff and consultants will present findings and recommendations from studies.	Information/ Discussion	10	Don Matson	September	CPC August	610
25.	Review findings and recommendations of US 20/26 Corridor Environmental Assessment (EA)	No	Staff and consultants will present findings and recommendations from studies.	Information/ Discussion	10	Don Matson	September	CPC August	611
26.	October 2010 Board and Executive Meetings Canceled						October Meetings Canceled		
27.	Approve Final Changes to the FY2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program	Yes	Staff requests approval of final changes to the FY2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program that occurred through the mirroring process.	Action	10	Toni Tisdale	November	October	685
28.	Review Regional Transportation Financial Data Report	No	Staff will present the revenue and expenditure report.	Information/ Discussion	15	Liisa Itkonen	November/ December	September	692
29.	Holiday Luncheon/Presentation of Leadership in Motion Awards	No	Annual Holiday Luncheon and Leadership in Motion Awards will be presented.	Special Item	15	Board Chair (Amy Luft)	December	N/A	653

Item #	Title/Description	Mandatory¹	Policy Implications/Requirements	Agenda Type²	Time	Presenter	Proposed Agenda	RTAC Agenda	Program No.
30.	Establish 2011 COMPASS Board and Executive Committee Meeting Dates and Locations	Yes	This item also serves as the required 30 day notice of the annual COMPASS Board meeting on January 24, 2011.	Consent Agenda	N/A	N/A	December	N/A	N/A
31.	Approve 2011 State Legislative Position Statements	Yes	Staff will seek approval of the Executive Committee's recommended position statements for 2010 state legislative session.	Action	15	Matt Stoll	December	N/A	760
32.	Approve FY2012 Federal Appropriations Priority Projects	Yes	Staff will seek approval of the Executive Committee's recommended priority projects for FY2012 <i>federal appropriations.</i>	Action	15	Matt Stoll	December	November	760
33.	Adopt Resolution Approving the FY2011 Unified Planning Work Program-Revision 1	Yes	Staff will present and request adoption of the FY2011 UPWP - Revision 1.	Action	15	Matt Stoll	December	November	601
34.	Status Report – Finance Committee	No	The Finance Committee Chair will provide a status report of the November 18, 2010 meeting.	Information/ Discussion	10	Finance Chair	December	N/A	601
35.	Confirm Board Officers: Chair, Chair-Elect, Vice Chair, Immediate Past Chair. Elect Secretary-Treasurer	Yes	As required by COMPASS Bylaws, the Board is required annually to confirm the ascension of new Board Officers and a new Secretary-Treasurer is elected.	Action	10	Matt Stoll	January 2011	N/A	N/A
36.	Confirm Executive Committee Representation for Cities under 25,000 in Population	Yes	As required by the COMPASS Bylaws, the Board is required to confirm Executive Committee representatives for cities under 25,000 in population.	Action	10	Chair	January	N/A	N/A

Item #	Title/Description	Mandatory¹	Policy Implications/Requirements	Agenda Type²	Time	Presenter	Proposed Agenda	RTAC Agenda	Program No.
37.	Confirm Non-Elected Board Members and Alternates	Yes	As required by the COMPASS Bylaws, the Board is required to confirm non-elected Board members and alternates	Action	5	Chair	January	N/A	N/A
38.	Confirm Standing Committee Memberships	Yes	As required by the COMPASS Bylaws, the Board is required to confirm Standing Committee memberships	Action	5	Chair	January	N/A	N/A
39.	Approve Acquisition of Real Property for a Permanent Office Location for COMPASS	Yes	Seek will seek approval of acquisition of real property for a permanent office location for COMPASS.	Action	20	Matt Stoll	TBD	N/A	N/A
40.	Workshop – Air Quality Conformity Process	No	COMPASS and DEQ staff will facilitate a discussion regarding air quality conformity and the transportation system.	Workshop	60	TBD	TBD	N/A	N/A
41.	Workshop – Funding Transportation	No	What if a local option tax provided \$100 million more per year for transportation? The workshop would have the Board consider its priorities for allocation.	Workshop	60	Charles Trainor Amy Luft	TBD	N/A	N/A
42.	Workshop - Integration of Blueprint for Good Growth Work into COMPASS planning	No	COMPASS staff will discuss how comprehensive plan and cumulative development evaluations can be integrated into planning, programming and development reviews.	Potential Workshop		Charles Trainor	TBD	TBD	761
43.	Workshop- High Capacity Transit Projects and Land Use	No	Consultant facilitated Board Workshop on high capacity transit projects and related land use issues.	Workshop	60	TBD	TBD	N/A	N/A
44.	Status Report – Transportation Project Coordination	No	Staff will report on progress in coordinating transportation projects and construction related delays.	Information/ Discussion	15	Charles Trainor	TBD	TBD	701

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA ITEM V-B

Date: July 20, 2010



Topic: May 2010 COMPASS Board Retreat Summary Report

Summary:

On May 17, 2010, COMPASS Board members participated in a half-day retreat on Creating Vibrant Downtowns and Other Core Community Areas.

The retreat consisted of a series of presentations providing information on what member agencies and COMPASS, as an organization, can do to help incentivize development in core community areas, as consistent with *Communities in Motion*. These presentations "set the stage" for facilitated small group discussions, which comprised the second half of the retreat.

The attached report summarizes the presentations and the small group discussions and identifies potential "next steps" for COMPASS, based on the conversations generated in the facilitated discussions.

Staff Recommendation/Request:

This item is for your review and discussion. No action is requested.

Implication (policy and/or financial):

Many ideas were generated at the retreat regarding the role of COMPASS in incentivizing development consistent with *Communities in Motion* and in playing a broader role in economic development.

Highlights

1. The retreat generated lively discussion. In many aspects, the discussion broadened from the topic of encouraging development in downtowns and core community areas to promoting economic development in general. This broadening of the topic of conversation is likely a reflection of the current economic conditions.
2. Many ideas were generated by Board members to provide incentives to development – many of those incentives focused streamlining and coordinating processes within and among agencies.
3. COMPASS, as an organization, also left with several potential tasks to explore, mainly focusing on providing tools and resources to assist with, and examine, economic development opportunities.

Additional Information:

- Attachment: COMPASS Board of Directors' Retreat, *Creating Vibrant Downtowns and Other Core Community Areas*, summary report (5 pages; no appendices).
- The full report (103 pages; includes appendices) is available online at <http://www.compassidaho.org/people/execpackets.htm>
- For detailed information contact Amy Luft at 855-2558 ext 231, aluft@compassidaho.org.

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COMPASS Board of Directors' Retreat

Creating Vibrant Downtowns and Other Core Community Areas

May 17, 2010

The Community Planning Association (COMPASS) Board of Directors held its annual retreat Monday, May 17, 2010, at Meridian City Hall. The topic of the retreat was *Creating Vibrant Downtowns and Other Core Community Areas*.

This topic is both relevant and timely. The "Community Choices" land use scenario used in *Communities in Motion*, the regional long-range transportation plan for Ada and Canyon Counties, calls for compact growth and a mix of jobs and housing, both of which benefit, and benefit from, vibrant core community areas.

Additionally, the economic downturn, and the subsequent slowing of growth, is allowing Treasure Valley leaders to analyze where and how growth is occurring within their jurisdictions, what their agencies are doing to promote or discourage growth and development, and what changes can be made, if needed, to encourage the type of development they want to see.

The retreat consisted of a series of presentations followed by facilitated small group discussions. All presentations dealt with different aspects of the same topic—why and how to encourage growth and development in downtowns and other core community areas. See Appendix A for a copy of the agenda.

Presentations

Charles Trainor, COMPASS Principal Planner, set the stage for the discussion with a brief overview of *Communities in Motion* and the "Community Choices" land use scenario. Mr. Trainor highlighted several of the goals of the Community Choices scenario (e.g., an increase in the percentage of multi-family housing units) and several of the benefits of this land-use scenario (e.g., a decrease in vehicle miles traveled).

Elaine Clegg of Idaho Smart Growth and the Boise City Council presented results of *Quality Infill: Recommendations and Tools*, a study conducted jointly by Idaho Smart Growth and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Idaho in 2009. Several recommendations of the study included incentives to encourage infill development, including creating priority infill areas where incentives are to be used, reducing development fees for infill projects, and streamlining the application process for infill projects.

Members of the ULI Idaho Mayors' Task Force on Sustainable Downtown Development presented a preview of the task force's findings and recommendations. Highlights included the need to build upon (or create) a sense of place, the importance of recognizing that a project needs to be appropriate for its proposed location, the importance of public-private partnerships and cooperation, and the need to recognize that projects/developments must be market-driven. That is, even if a project or development matches the vision or land-use plan for a given area, if the market won't support that type of project in that type of area, it won't be successful.

David Turnbull from Brighton Corporation spoke on behalf of the development community. Mr. Turnbull discussed the key considerations for developers when choosing a location and type of development, including market considerations, financial considerations/fees, and political considerations. Mr. Turnbull stressed the need for local governments to be willing to work with developers and have a "can-do" attitude, as opposed to acting as adversaries. He also discussed the overall importance of economic development and the need for a comprehensive approach to economic development for the region.

Carl Miller, COMPASS Principal Planner, concluded the presentations with a discussion of tools used by other regions and Metropolitan Planning Organizations around the country to encourage growth consistent with regional visions and long-range transportation plans. Tools ranged from grants to subsidize development in desirable areas to policy agreements among jurisdictions.

Copies of the presentations and handouts are provided in Appendix B.

Small Group Discussions

The Board spent approximately one hour in small groups discussing a series of questions designed to focus on the tools available to them to incentivize development—both as individual jurisdictions and as a region. Board members ended with a discussion on what COMPASS can do to help incentivize development as envisioned in *Communities in Motion*.

Each Board member was also asked to commit to one task he or she would do within one month to help begin the process to incentivize development in a core location within that Board member's jurisdiction. Note-takers recorded the small group discussions on flip charts. Highlights of the discussions are below. The complete discussion questions can be found in Appendix C; a transcription of the small-group discussion notes can be found in Appendix D.

Individual Jurisdictions

Board members were asked to brainstorm tools available to them, in their individual jurisdictions that could be used to incentivize development. While many potential tools and ideas were discussed, the two that generated the most support and discussion were finding ways to streamline the application processes (in general and specifically for desired development) and to lower or restructure fees, such as impact fees, for desired development. The primary context of the discussion on fees, centered on tying fees more directly to actual costs. For example, it was argued that if a developer proposes to build in a downtown area where infrastructure already exists, the fees should be different (lower) than when a developer proposes to build in a “greenfield” where infrastructure would need to be built to accommodate that growth.

Treasure Valley Region

When discussing what the Treasure Valley could do as a region to incentivize development in certain areas, the conversation centered around two issues. The first issue was a need for agencies to work together to provide consistency in fees, processes, permitting, requirements, etc. It was generally recognized that the myriad of jurisdictions often involved in a given project, each with its own requirements and deadlines, is a source of frustration for developers.

The second issue was the need for a regional economic development “voice,” clearinghouse, and resource. Some of the small groups also expressed a desire for a “cost-benefit” analysis calculator that could be used by all jurisdictions in the region to assist in making economic development decisions.

COMPASS

When asked what role COMPASS, as an organization, could or should play in these issues, the overwhelming response was for COMPASS to take a lead role in housing regional economic development resources, and possibly house a staff person to take the lead on regional economic development opportunities. COMPASS was also mentioned as a potential lead agency in organizing a Treasure Valley economic development summit. There was also support for COMPASS to pursue tools that could be used to calculate the economic benefits of transportation and development projects (e.g., a “cost-benefit” analysis calculator as mentioned above).

There was a related discussion concerning if COMPASS would need to re-organize as a “Council of Governments” if it were to take on a broader role within the region.

Next Steps

The COMPASS Board of Directors' retreat highlighted many potential "next steps" for participants to tackle individually and with other COMPASS member agencies, as well as "next steps" for COMPASS, as an organization.

Each participant left the Board meeting with a note to him or herself of one action to complete during the next month to begin a process to encourage development in a core community area as identified by that individual. These commitments were not shared with others and will not be tracked. The onus is on each individual to follow through with that personal commitment.

The primary "next step" identified for the region was for agencies to coordinate to develop cohesive (or at least not contradictory) processes for permitting, fees, and other issues relevant to development. COMPASS encourages member agencies to begin discussions of how to accomplish this important task.

For COMPASS as an agency, the primary tasks identified by the small groups centered around providing economic development tools and resources.

There was strong support for COMPASS to investigate housing regional economic development resources and to look into hosting a regional economic development summit. To this end, if directed to do so by the COMPASS Board of Directors, COMPASS staff would:

1. Review the COMPASS Joint Powers Agreement to determine if it currently allows for COMPASS to pursue economic development responsibilities.
2. Revise the Joint Powers Agreement, if necessary.
3. Research and coordinate with other agencies currently conducting economic development activities in the region (e.g., Boise Valley Economic Partnership, Sage Community Resources, chambers of commerce, etc.) to determine what gaps exist within the existing structure/organizations that COMPASS would be best suited to fill.
4. Develop a proposal, including costs, tasks, deliverables, and a timeline, to pursue providing economic development resources and/or an economic development summit. Present this proposal to the COMPASS Board of Directors.

In addition, while not specifically identified as tasks for COMPASS in the course of the small group discussions, two related action items emerged for COMPASS during the full group discussion and individual conversations – both involve acquiring tools to assess economic impacts of development and transportation infrastructure.

The first is to research and acquire a model (“cost-benefit analysis calculator”) that estimates taxes that would be generated from a specific amount and type of development. This type of calculator could be used by COMPASS staff and member agencies to compare proposed development patterns and help in decision-making.

The second is an economic model to determine the broad benefits (short and long-term return on investment) derived from transportation investment: construction jobs, longer-term economic growth (non-construction jobs, increased economic activity, etc.), time and fuel savings, etc. This is the sort of analysis frequently expected in federal transportation grant applications.

COMPASS staff have already begun research into the latter of these models – what is available “off the shelf,” what other regions use, costs of developing a model specific to the Treasure Valley, etc. Staff can also begin research into acquiring the “calculator” upon direction from the Board.

Summary

The COMPASS Board of Directors’ retreat generated lively discussion. In many aspects, the discussion broadened from the topic of encouraging development in downtowns and core community areas to promoting economic development in general. This broadening of the topic of conversation is likely a reflection of the current economic conditions.

Many ideas were generated by Board members to provide incentives to development – many of those incentives focused streamlining and coordinating processes within and among agencies.

COMPASS, as an organization, also left with several potential tasks to explore, mainly focusing providing tools and resources to assist with, and examine, economic development opportunities.