



**REGIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 24, 2010  
COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION**

**\*\* MINUTES \*\***

- ATTENDEES:** Sabrina Anderson, Ada County Highway District  
Mary Barker, Valley Regional Transit  
Clair Bowman, City of Nampa  
Jennifer Carson, Canyon County Development Services  
Jon Cecil, Capital City Development Corporation  
Doug Foye, Boise State University (*for Jared Everett*)  
Stephen Freiburger, Nampa Highway District #1  
Michael Garz, Idaho Transportation Department-  
District 3 (*for Scott Gurnsey*)  
Caleb Hood, City of Meridian  
Wendy Howell, City of Middleton, **Vice Chair**  
Gary Inselman, Ada County Highway District  
Megan Johnson, Ada County Development Services  
Kathleen Lacey, City of Boise  
Jeff Lowe, City of Eagle, **Chair**  
David Luft, Department of Environmental Quality  
Don Matson, COMPASS (*Ex-Officio*)  
Deanna Smith, Public Participation Committee  
Sarah Stobaugh, Boise Independent School District  
Jim Voorhees, Canyon Highway District #4
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chris Collins, Mayor, City of Notus  
Steve Hasson, City of Kuna  
Rob Howarth, Central District Health Department (*Ex-Officio*)  
Nathan Mitchell, City of Star  
Brent Orton, City of Caldwell  
Craig Telford, Mayor, City of Parma  
Jenah Thornborrow, City of Garden City
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Lee Coe, COMPASS  
Liisa Itkonen, COMPASS  
Eric Lindstrom, Kittelson & Associates  
Amy Luft, COMPASS  
Carl Miller, COMPASS  
Sai Kumar Sarepalli, Holladay Engineering Company  
Toni Tisdale, COMPASS  
Charles Trainor, COMPASS  
Cheyne Weston, Boise Parks and Recreation  
Debbie Winchar, COMPASS

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lowe called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Introductions were made of all attendees.

## **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

None.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Don Matson said a GoggleEarth workshop will take place after the RTAC meeting.

Clair Bowman commented that an information item from the January 2010 agenda – Discuss Implications of Unfunded Corridors and Evaluation of the Preservation Scenario – was tabled at that meeting and not added to this month's agenda. Clair said the proposed discussion was in response to a prior meeting's discussion at which time Jon Cecil observed that all RTAC agencies need to start focusing primarily on public transportation and reduce their emphasis on automobiles.

The sense of Canyon County agencies is that there is not a lot of support for that perspective in Canyon County. The directive that staff perceive from Canyon County's elected officials is to build roads and this perspective should be equally represented around the RTAC table.

Jon Cecil replied the COMPASS Board, including representatives from Canyon County, voted to support the inclusion of the streetcar proposal that went to TIGER. In terms of alternative forms of public transportation, it is the responsibility of this Committee, as well as the Board, to consider all opportunities. The public is looking for alternative ways of transportation.

Clair stated recognition of the views of Canyon County's elected officials would be appreciated.

After further discussion, Kathleen Lacey commented this is a discussion that needs to be held in more depth. At next month's RTAC, there will be discussion on the Sustainable Communities Grant administered by HUD in partnership with DOT and EPA and that guidance will have an impact on how federal funds are distributed in the future. Kathleen recommended concluding this discussion for now, recognizing that Canyon County's voices have been heard.

Toni Tisdale announced that Ryan Head will be leaving COMPASS and joining the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) staff.

David Luft said the Department of Environmental Quality announced the selection of a vendor for running the emissions testing program in Canyon County. As is required by statute, implementation of the program will move forward, beginning June 1, 2010.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### A. Approve January 27, 2010 Meeting Minutes

A suggestion was made to change a word in Item IV-C., second sentence to read: "Tricia Nilsson suggested adding *project* descriptions...."

**Stephen Freiburger moved and Mary Barker seconded to approve the January 27, 2010 meeting minutes as amended. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**

## ACTION ITEMS

### A. Recommend Approval to Amend the FY2009-2013 and FY2010-2014 Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs)

Toni Tisdale presented, and requested a recommendation to approve, the amendment.

#### Discussion:

- Regarding Key No. 11585, Transit Canyon County Vanpool – Sabrina Anderson commented that after talking to Kirk Montgomery, ACHD, he said that he talked with Valley Regional Transit (VRT) regarding the vanpool program and he is concerned about starting a new program without having more information: operational versus capital; what is the plan for funding on an ongoing basis; van size; and, if Canyon County has given feedback.

Mary Barker replied this is a redirection of funds that were going to be used for Micron. The initial wording was "an inter-county bus service" but Micron is unable to participate. The final draft of a mobility management plan is being presented to a VRT committee that would begin to look at vehicle sharing and how to move people around to smaller businesses.

- A question raised was if the Commuteride program belongs at VRT rather than ACHD. This expansion in Canyon County should raise a red flag of using two sets of administrative operations. If ACHD cannot provide the service solely within Canyon County, why not consolidate at the agency that can provide this service in both counties?

Sabrina Anderson replied ACHD's Commuteride program had questions regarding operations (i.e., whether or not this program would be combined with ACHD's ride match online service). The commission would not be opposed to the principle of having a vanpool program in Canyon County but coordination and operation questions need to be addressed.

Toni said ACHD's commission should be made aware of some issues. After talking to the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) staff, a question was raised: could ACHD run the vanpool? If it was a ride share program, it may be a good fit. ACHD already receives some of the operations funding from STP-U dollars to run the vanpool as it stands now in Canyon County.

After further discussion, **Clair Bowman moved and Sabrina Anderson seconded to recommend approval to amend Key Nos. 12039 and 12229, and request**

**additional information from VRT and ACHD concerning the possibility of running the vanpool through one operation rather than two, a clarification of STP-U funds and legal questions, and that the information is presented to RTAC at the next month's meeting.**

**Discussion:**

Kathleen Lacey suggested it would be more efficient to divide the motion into two separate motions.

**Stephen Freiburger made a substitute motion and seconded by Kathleen Lacey to recommend approval to amend Key Nos. 12039 and 12229 and allow separate discussion of Key No. 11585.**

**Discussion:**

Mary Barker suggested a legal question to be asked is whether the limitation is in terms of purchasing things that operate in Canyon County or operating a service in Canyon County. Another variation would be for VRT to purchase the vans and then hire ACHD to run the service.

Jon Cecil called for the question. **Motion carries.**

**Stephen Freiburger moved and Clair Bowman seconded to table a recommendation to approve the amendment of Key No. 11585 until additional information is received from ACHD and VRT:**

- **A legal opinion if ACHD could operate a vanpool in Canyon County;**
- **VRT's operation strategy; and**
- **What triggers an obligation of STTP-Urban funds.**

**A summary of this discussion should be presented to RTAC at the March 2010 meeting. Motion carries.**

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Report on progress of *Communities in Motion* (CIM) Indicators for Performance Monitoring Report (PMR)**

Carl Miller reported on the progress of CIM Indicators for the PMR. Carl said member agency feedback is requested to complete the document. RTAC's recommendation to approve the 2010 PMR is scheduled for April 2010.

**Discussion:**

- A comparison of the 2010 PMR Indicators and the 2011 PMR Indicators is needed.
- It would be helpful to indicate who will be responsible for providing the base data.
- A measure was left off the Choices in Transportation: Transit Revenue Hours per Capita.
- The City of Boise will bring several comments to the next subcommittee meeting and requests that the subcommittee meets soon in order to resolve significant

issues that have been raised internally; creating metrics that provide the information that the City of Boise is trying to extrapolate.

- All of the agencies need to be using the same data.

## **B. Follow up on Implementation of Transportation Impact Studies Recommend Best Practices**

Charles Trainor presented an update on the progress of these tools.

### **Discussion:**

- The City of Nampa has made revisions and every one of the topics in the memorandum is now included as part of Nampa's revised Transportation Impact Study Guidelines. Two new multiple school sites have been identified and both will use these guidelines. Feedback will be provided to RTAC.
- There is a need to be more specific when talking about complex projects in a negotiated area (i.e., projects proposed in the northern foothills to the east of Highway 55).
- The idea of this document was to keep it as flexible as possible.

Charles replied this is not a regulatory document. It is a document that advises on recommended practices and it is up to the individual agency that drafts their own ordinance as to how they want to implement.

## **C. Survey of RTAC Members on Committee Effectiveness**

Don Matson discussed the Committee online survey from late 2008 and stated that some of the answers conflict with other feedback he has received from Committee members. In conversations with the new Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, it was decided to proceed with a special workshop at the March 24, 2010 RTAC meeting to revisit the 2008 survey and other issues about Committee effectiveness. To prepare for the March meeting Don made a short presentation with the Audience Response System (ARS) and gathered opinions on how to conduct the survey.

Don ended the discussion with a request for one or two volunteers to help in preparing questions and to be "test pilots" for the survey a day or two before the meeting. Clair Bowman and Kathleen Lacey volunteered for the first group, and Stephen Freiburger volunteered for the second. Deanna Smith suggested involving members of the Public Participation Committee.

## **D. Discuss Construction and Studies Coordination**

Lee Coe reviewed construction and studies coordination. Lee said the semi-annual update to the Studies Coordination webpage is scheduled for March 2010.

### **OTHER**

Chair Lowe said it has been brought to his attention that the Senate just passed the Jobs Bill by a 70-28 vote.

Liisa Itkonen gave a brief update on the Mobility in Southwest Idaho: Coordination Summit planned for April 22, 2010, at the Nampa Civic Center.

**A. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010, 9:00 a.m., at COMPASS.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Stephen Freiburger moved and Jim Voorhees seconded adjournment at 10:26 a.m. Motion carries.**

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