

**Latino/Low Income Discussion Group Notes, March 20, 2014
CCOA, Caldwell**

Eight attendees

Three COMPASS staff:

- Liisa Itkonen
- Amy Luft
- John Van Dyke

Question 1: How long has everyone lived here? (Canyon County or nearby)

- 7 years = 1
- 16 years = 1
- 25 years = 1
- 50 years = 3

Question 2. Think about what has changed in the time you've lived here. Has your community grown? What other changes have you seen?

- The Interstate was built; caused businesses to close or move away from original locations
- There used to be more farmland, especially along US Highway 20/26; now that land is all houses
- There used to be a lot more farm fields and labor camps all over the area
- CCOA used to have a lot of activities for Hispanic seniors, but they don't anymore; CCOA no longer has a van to transport seniors to activities. The van that was used to transport the Hispanic seniors to activities was given to the group to utilize as they wished. They are welcome to use CCOA's existing transportation services.

Question 3. Given what you have experienced in the time you've lived here and how you see the future, do you think what the CIM 2040 Vision map shows and what the vision statement says make sense? Are they realistic? Do they fit with how you see the future?

- I'm not sure if it is realistic, but I would like for it to be. (sentiment echoed by all)

Question 4. [Referring to the 33 priority corridors/projects] Based on what you see, do you agree with these as priorities for improvements? Are there other roads or projects that are more important?

- Most important = maintenance on I-84 near the Franklin Exit in Caldwell and from Caldwell to Nampa
- While widening near Garrity (Nampa) has helped the Karcher Interchange, need to address traffic and safety issues near the Karcher and Garrity Interchanges (mainly on the surface roads...not I-84 itself)
- Need to improve Highway 55/Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard intersection

No one mentioned transit, so we followed up with a question on the transit priorities...are the transit priorities important?

- No one here uses the bus – everyone drives or carpools if they don't have a drivers' license
- When CCOA used to have a senior transportation bus, Latino seniors used that
- Never ridden the bus in my life...I'd be scared to because I don't know what to do
- I would ride the bus, but it doesn't stop near my house.

Question 5. Do you agree with the plan to focusing federal funding on maintenance? Or, should we spend it on new things to accommodate all of the new growth?

- Yes, agree
- Maintain what we have before building more
- If we build more, we have to maintain that too, don't we?

Question 6. What do you think we should do about the funding shortfall?

[List below provided with place for each person to "vote" with two stickers for their top two options]

- Raise federal gas tax **(5 votes)**
- Raise state funding for transportation (gas tax or other taxes) **(6 votes)**
- Raise local funding for transportation (impact fees or other fees or taxes) **(0 votes)**
- Lower maintenance standards/do less maintenance **(2 votes)**
- Don't "fix" it – just live with what we have **(0 votes)**
- Other (please explain) **(0 votes)**

Why did you "vote" as you did?

- It seemed most logical
- Vehicle owners should pay

Elderly/Low Income Discussion Group Notes, March 27, 2014
CCOA, Caldwell

Ten attendees

Three COMPASS staff:

- Liisa Itkonen
- Amy Luft
- John Van Dyke

Question 1: How long has everyone lived here? (Canyon County or nearby)

- More than 10 years = 9 (everyone that was in the room at the time)
- More than 20 years = 6
- More than 30 years = 5
- More than 40 years = 3
- More than 50 years = 2
- More than 60 years = 2

Question 2. Think about what has changed in the time you've lived here. Has your community grown? What other changes have you seen?

- A lot of growth
- Areas has become more multi-cultural
- Traffic is much worse
- Culture has become more selfish/self-centered and busy
- In-migrating population is very different from native (long time) population

Question 3. Given what you have experienced in the time you've lived here and how you see the future, do you think what the *Communities in Motion 2040* Vision map shows and what the vision statement says make sense? Are they realistic? Do they fit with how you see the future?

- Yes, realistic (consensus) – especially in regard to amount of growth
- Hate to see loss of local farms and destruction of community; preserve those
- Bothered by new housing on what used to be farmland
- Housing costs a concern, relative to income
- Caldwell is a bedroom community – no substantive employers; need more good jobs
- Protect farmland
- Medical care is one area where Caldwell has improved; good for care and good jobs; want to see this continue

Question 4. [Referring to the 33 priority corridors/projects] Based on what you see, do you agree with these as priorities for improvements? Are there other roads or projects that are more important?

- I-84 should not be #1; transit should be
 - Dependent on family/friends for transportation and/or Medicaid services
 - Cannot walk to bus stops – not convenient
 - Frequency of buses need to increase
 - Routes need to be static and dependable
 - Want a “circulator” – bus that runs through Caldwell on a continual loop that stops at all the major places; less confusing because it always goes the same places
 - Bus scheduled confusing
 - Need better communication between/among bus drivers
 - Need better service by bus drivers – assist with loading bikes, etc.
 - Trains need to come back; then we wouldn’t need to expand I-84
 - ValleyRide needs to do a better job of listening to current riders
 - A lot of education/information needs to be provided to the public on the value of transit (Twitter campaign)
 - Put bus stops closer together
 - Don’t make people cross the street to get between bus stops
 - Need clearer naming conventions for buses (e.g., say “downtown Caldwell,” or “Treasure Valley Marketplace” instead of a route number)
 - Need more bus service (more total and more frequent) between Caldwell and Boise, so not stuck in Boise all day, or so can go to a play or something at night
 - Support existing services (such as CCOA senior buses) instead of reinventing the wheel
- Need more roundabouts – Ustick is great!
- Don’t make roundabouts big like in big cities back east – keep them small like Ustick

Question 5. Do you agree with the plan to focusing federal funding on maintenance? Or, should we spend it on new things to accommodate all of the new growth?

- Yes, good idea
- We need that
- You don’t buy more house than you can afford to maintain, just as you shouldn’t buy more road than you can afford to maintain
- Have to take care of what you have
- Maintenance needs to be done with longevity in mind – don’t just patch roads each year...fix them

Question 6. What do you think we should do about the funding shortfall?

[List below provided with place for each person to “vote” with two stickers for their top two options]

- Raise federal gas tax **(0 votes)**
- Raise state funding for transportation (gas tax or other taxes) **(2 votes)**
- Raise local funding for transportation (impact fees or other fees or taxes) **(9 votes)**
- Lower maintenance standards/do less maintenance **(0 votes)**
- Don’t “fix” it – just live with what we have **(0 votes)**
- Other (please explain) **(4 votes)**

Why did you “vote” as you did?

- Definitely do NOT reduce maintenance – maintenance very important
- If anything, do more maintenance, or spend more on better quality maintenance so it lasts longer
- Do not want to see gas prices go up
- Everyone who owns a car should pay their share
- “Other”
 - Use lottery funds for transportation
 - Not sure what to do, but I don’t want to see taxes or gas prices go up, but do want something to be done; don’t like any of these options
 - Tax car insurance companies
 - Tax like income tax – the more you earn, the more you pay, so burden isn’t on the poor
 - Have a sliding tax scale based on usage and weight

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Refugee/Low Income Discussion Group Notes, April 8, 2014
English Learning Center, Boise

20 attendees

3 COMPASS staff:

- Liisa Itkonen
- Amy Luft
- John Van Dyke

Question 1: How long has everyone lived here?

- More than 1 year = 5
- Less than one year = 15
- Newest immigrant = 25 days

Question 2. Even though you haven't lived here very long, think about what has changed in the time you have lived here. Has the community grown? What other changes have you seen?

- A lot of growth
- New buildings

Question 3. What types of transportation changes do you think the area needs?

- You shouldn't be asking us...we're not the experts
- Eagle Road needs improvement
- Too much parking – reduce parking to incentivize public transportation use
- Need improved bus frequency
- It is faster to walk than ride the bus (same distance can walk in 30 minutes, but it takes 60 minutes to ride the bus)
- Bus doesn't always stop even if they see riders waiting or walking toward the bus stop
- Not enough spaces for bikes on buses
- Need bike racks at bus stops
- One good thing – the buses here tend to run on time
- Use smaller (less expensive) buses and have them run more frequently
- Bus system has too many transfers
- Bus times aren't convenient – make them better fit work schedules

Question 5. Do you agree with the plan to focusing federal funding on maintenance? Or, should we spend it on new things to accommodate all of the new growth?

- Maintain what we have before building new

Question 6. What do you think we should do about the funding shortfall?

[List below provided with place for each person to "vote" with two stickers for their top two options]

- Raise federal gas tax **(6 votes)**
- Raise state funding for transportation (gas tax or other taxes) **(5 votes)**
- Raise local funding for transportation (impact fees or other fees or taxes) **(6 votes)**
- Lower maintenance standards/do less maintenance **(5 votes)**
- Don't "fix" it – just live with what we have **(6 votes)**
- Other (please explain) **(10 votes)**

Why did you “vote” as you did?

- I don't drive, so I voted to raise gas tax because I wouldn't have to pay it and because it would hopefully encourage more people to not drive
- Create more jobs, which leads to more people, which increases tax revenue (tax base) without raising taxes
- Keep buses running later, but charge more after 7 pm
- Use other means of funding, but not new taxes
- Charge event taxes (maybe parking?) for when people drive to large (local) events, such as concerts or festivals (e.g., at the Morrison Center or at Julia Davis Park)
- Build our own buses
 - Make the public transportation industry (e.g., manufacturing buses) part of Boise's economy
 - Creates local jobs for everyone, including refugees
 - Increased population and increased jobs will leads to more tax (larger tax base)
 - Use the buses we build locally, so that benefits the economy too
- Provide refugees with cars that they can use to drive other refugees when the bus system is not running (e.g., at night). Refugees can charge for their service, and use that money to pay off the cars, so they eventually own them. This provides income and a means of owning a car to the “driver” refugees and “transit” services (of sorts...a taxi) to other refugees when the buses aren't running.