

Discussion Group Notes, August 20, 2013
National Federation for the Blind

Three attendees:

- Dana Ard
- Susan Bradley
- Earl Hoover

Two COMPASS staff:

- Liisa Itkonen
- Amy Luft

Question 1: Let's get a feel for your daily trips. We're going to start with a show of hands on a few questions, just to get a feel for how you all move about the valley.

- *How many of you commute to a job or to school on a regular basis? 2*
- *How many of you leave the house – travel around town or around the area – to run errands 3 or more days per week? 3*
- *How many of you leave the house - travel around town or around the area – for “play” 3 days or more a week? 3*
- *How many of you ride as a passenger in a car for 100% of those trips?*
 - Not 100%, but some. When do:
 - Get ride from family/friends
 - Hire a driver
 - Occasional taxi (expensive)
- *How else do you get around?*
 - Bus **3**
 - All use for some trips, but not most trips
 - Use mainly for “regular” trips (e.g., commute to work)
 - Harder to use for errands/play because of limited bus schedule
 - Living along a bus line a very high priority. Looking to move across town and that is a big factor in location of new house
 - Walk **3**
 - Walk some, but many areas aren't very walkable
 - Downtown Boise = good
 - East Boise = pretty good (chose to live in east Boise so can walk to work)
 - West Boise = not good (looking to move from west Boise to another part of town where more walkable)
- *What would be your first choice of transportation?*
 - Depends on where going/what doing
 - Bus is good for independence (not having to ask for a ride)
 - Bus good for commuting
 - Bus not good for social activities – schedule not conducive
 - Avoid travelling in the evening due to lack of bus service
- *When you have a choice on your travel times, do you avoid rush hour?*
 - Times dictated by bus schedule, not by rush hour, per se
- *Are there specific routes or roads that you avoid (or wish you could) or specifically choose to use?*
 - Avoid complex intersections when walking. Will go out of the way to use a simpler (or more familiar) intersection to avoid a more complex or unfamiliar intersection. Safety and navigation issues.

Question 2. If you were in charge, and could fix three things on the transportation system in Ada and Canyon Counties, what would those things be?

- Traffic signal timing
 - Lack of patterns/predictability make it difficult for pedestrians and bicyclists
 - Recent signal changes have resulted in fewer patterns
- Increase bus frequency
- Lengthen hours that buses run (into the evening)
- Increase intercounty bus service, include service in Meridian
- Look at housing and transit together
- Increase mixed use – e.g., corner stores.
 - When relying on bus or someone else to get around, having to go a long way is difficult and time consuming. If there were corner stores, a person could walk from home for groceries, etc.
- Improve pedestrian signal technology
 - Something that tells you that you need to push a “walk” button to get a pedestrian signal.
 - Interactive technologies -- signals interact with an “app” to give pedestrians (especially visually impaired) better information.
- Consistent, uniform bus stops – same look and feel for all, so it is clear that a location is a bus stop.
 - E.g. a random bench can be confused with a bus stop if you can't see it. Make all bus stop benches the same (and different from others) so it is clear.
 - And/or...don't have benches where not a bus stop. A bench is a “signal” that the spot is a bus stop. Randomly placed benches confuse things if you can't see.

Question 3. We've discussed a list of 33 priority corridors. I'd like you to think about YOUR priorities and pick your top 5 priority corridors or projects. What are your top votes?

11. *Valleyconnect* (near-term) **4 votes**
2. State Highway 44/State Street High Capacity Corridor **3 votes**
12. Treasure Valley High Capacity Corridor **3 votes**
5. Regional park and ride improvements (near-term) **2 votes**
16. *Valleyconnect* (medium-term) **2 votes**
10. Regional park and ride improvements (medium- term) **1 vote**