

Communities in Motion 2040 **Quarterly Email Update #1, October 2011**

The Community Planning Association (COMPASS) is updating *Communities in Motion*, the regional long-range transportation plan for Ada and Canyon Counties.

This update of *Communities in Motion* will plan to the year 2040. Looking nearly 30 years into the future can seem overwhelming and, with the volatility of our current economy, it may be hard to concentrate on anything beyond tomorrow and what it may bring. However, long-range planning, and your involvement in it, helps steer the future of our valley.

We will be sending quarterly email updates to help you stay abreast of both the behind-the-scenes planning progress and opportunities for you to be involved.

Each email will contain three parts:

- A summary of what has happened so far/since the last email update
- A preview of what is planned before the next scheduled email update
- A real-life example of why long-range planning really does matter and why you should stay informed and be involved — the “Why should I care?” section.

The quarterly email updates will also be posted online at www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2040.htm, so that you can go back at any time to review past updates.

What has happened with the *Communities in Motion* update so far?

Planning Process:

- The COMPASS Board approved a scope of work for the process to update *Communities in Motion* in June 2011. The plan will cover Ada and Canyon Counties and will look at to a horizon year of 2040. The update will be complete and ready for adoption by the COMPASS Board no later than September 2014.
- Unlike the past and current versions of *Communities in Motion*, *Communities in Motion 2040* will be a long-range transportation and sustainability plan, with focus on housing, community infrastructure, and healthy living, as well as transportation.
- A first step in developing the plan will be to look to the future and collectively decide what type of future we are planning for — essentially to decide what we want the Treasure Valley to look like in the year 2040, based upon certain assumptions, such as how much growth will occur between now and then. COMPASS has hired a consulting team to help us through this and is preparing for a growth scenario planning process that will occur during the first half of 2012.
- COMPASS staff are compiling background data on numerous issues and developing a data management plan to help lay the groundwork for the work to come.
- COMPASS is developing a contract for an economic benefits analysis tool to evaluate the economic impact of infrastructure investments.

Public Involvement and Outreach:

- We've updated our website with new content on *Communities in Motion 2040*. Visit www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2040.htm for a clearinghouse of information on our progress, including links to this and future emails.
- We have been updating our outreach contact list; you should have received an email asking if you wanted to stay on the list. If you need to change your contact information, add someone else to our list, or want to be removed, please contact Amy Luft at aluft@compassidaho.org.
- COMPASS has been working on a Public Involvement Plan for the update process. The plan was developed with the COMPASS [Public Participation Committee](#) and will be submitted to the COMPASS Board for their approval later this fall.

What will happen in the next three months?

Planning Process:

- The COMPASS Board will review and be asked to approve a population estimate for Ada and Canyon Counties for 2040. This figure will be used as the basis for developing growth scenarios and the updated plan itself.
- Background work on the scenario planning process will continue, including planning for scenario development workshops and an accompanying guidebook.
- COMPASS will continue to gather background data and begin work on a trend analysis using those data.

Public Involvement and Outreach Opportunities:

- The COMPASS Board will be asked to review and approve the Public Involvement Plan. Once approved, it will be posted on the COMPASS web site and will guide our outreach efforts to involve you throughout the planning process.
- Be watching for emails, web updates, workshops, invited speakers, and more as we will initiate broader outreach to kickoff the update to the plan once the Public Involvement Plan has been reviewed and approved.
- Learn more about the plan and the planning process with a presentation to your club or organization. Contact Amy Luft at aluft@compassidaho.org to schedule.
- Join the [Public Participation Committee](#). This committee of citizen volunteers encourages community involvement in transportation planning issues in the COMPASS planning area and assists COMPASS staff with outreach efforts. It is a great opportunity to learn more about and become more deeply involved in the planning process. Contact Amy Luft at aluft@compassidaho.org to learn more.

Why should I care?

How about 7.6 billion reasons? It is projected that \$6.2 billion will be spent on roadways and \$1.4 billion will be spent on transit (public transportation) in Ada and Canyon Counties between 2010 and 2035 – even more as we plan out to 2040. Unbelievable as it may sound, that funding is far short of what is projected to be needed to keep up with population growth. That money comes from you – be involved to have a say in how it's used.

****Why do you think people should care?** Email aluft@compassidaho.org to share your reasons. We'll post them quarterly beginning in January 2012 on the COMPASS Executive Director's blog at www.compassidaho.blogspot.com. Check it out to see what everyone else is saying.**

Watch for your next quarterly email update in January 2012. In the meantime, if you have questions, comments, or want to become more involved, contact Amy Luft at aluft@compassidaho.org.