



2005 Legislative Recommendations

Oppose Public Infrastructure Improvements Districts

Public Infrastructure Improvements Districts (PIDs) are special limited purpose taxing districts formed to help finance public infrastructure within the district. COMPASS opposes this legislation because it does not adequately address the considerable impact of major infrastructure improvements to areas outside the PID or liability for long-term infrastructure maintenance costs.

Support GARVEE Bonding

COMPASS strongly supports state legislation to authorize the use of GARVEE bonds as a mechanism for allowing state and local agencies to accelerate funding for transportation projects. Legislation, however, must include a fiscally responsible cap on the amount that can be borrowed. Since an efficient transportation system is critical for economic development, it is in Idaho's best interest to use GARVEE bonding to complete large projects in a much shorter time frame.

Oppose State-mandated Regional Air Quality Act

The Regional Air Quality Act has been proposed as a means to foster collaborative regional decision-making about strategies to improve air quality. Air quality plans would be submitted to the state for approval and voluntarily implemented at the local level. COMPASS opposes this legislation. State action is not appropriate for the formation of regional air quality councils. The structure and scope of a region's efforts to address air quality management issues collectively and pro-actively should be left to local governments.

Support Public Transportation Policy

The Public Transportation Policy adds language to Idaho Code expressing support for public transportation services in Idaho. COMPASS strongly supports the policy and encourages the legislature to look further into the local funding options needed by public transportation agencies across the state. Funding is especially critical in the Treasure Valley because the Boise Urbanized Area can no longer use federal funds for operating the public transportation system. Dedicated local revenue sources are needed to expand and operate the system effectively to meet the needs of a growing population.