

COMPASS BOARD of DIRECTORS
POSITION STATEMENTS
Approved by the COMPASS Board December 17, 2007



COMPASS
COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION
of Southwest Idaho

2008 State Legislative Positions

1. Transportation Revenue

The COMPASS Board of Directors strongly supports legislation increasing revenue for the transportation system including transit and alternative transportation modes in the State of Idaho. The Forum on Transportation Investment identified a \$200 million per year shortfall for critical local and state transportation projects over the next 30 years. A functional transportation system is critical to accommodate the population growth and economic development of the Treasure Valley and the state of Idaho.

2. Transportation Local Option Tax Authority Legislation

The COMPASS Board of Directors strongly supports legislation providing the creation of Regional Transportation Authorities and the ability to request necessary supplemental transportation revenue from citizens through a local option sales tax. The Board supports the concept of allowing such funds to be used for roadway and/or transit projects, and opposes any legislation that excludes the possibility of funding transit options through local sales tax. The local option sales tax concept is proposed by the Coalition for Regional Transportation, a coalition of business and elected leaders of the Treasure Valley.

3. Third Year Funding Approval of GARVEE Bonding Program

The COMPASS Board of Directors strongly supports continuation of the Idaho Transportation Department's proposed GARVEE-related project and funding package. The GARVEE program is a critical tool in Idaho's efforts to meet the challenges and demands of a growing economy and population. The GARVEE program allows the Idaho Transportation Department to expedite critical projects in a cost efficient manner. Construction of the transportation corridors in Ada and Canyon Counties, as originally identified in the Connecting Idaho program should remain a priority for GARVEE funding.

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4. Transportation Access Plan legislation

The COMPASS Board of Directors strongly supports legislation providing a mechanism for the Idaho Transportation Department, in cooperation with local planning entities, to define the access control standards for a given highway corridor. This concept will allow transportation planning agencies to protect the safety and mobility of the traveling public by entering into agreements to control and manage access on state highways. This authority would help solve traffic flow challenges on state highways, particularly in high-growth areas like Ada and Canyon Counties.

5. State Tax Anticipation Revenue (STAR) financing

The COMPASS Board of Directors opposes any changes limiting State Tax Anticipation Revenue financing mechanism to specific geographical region or specific projects. The Board applauds the 2007 Idaho Legislature for creating the STAR tool as an additional, creative option for funding state highway improvements. The Board urges the 2008 Idaho Legislature to maintain statewide availability of this transportation financing tool.