

**COMPASS BOARD of DIRECTORS
LEGISLATIVE POSITION STATEMENTS
(Approved by COMPASS Board November 17, 2008)**



2009 State Legislative Positions

1. Transportation Revenue

The COMPASS Board of Directors strongly supports increasing and diversifying dedicated revenue for state and local transportation systems, including transit and alternative transportation modes. Idaho's current transportation funding level is inadequate to address the state's needs. The Idaho Transportation Board estimates a \$240 million per year shortfall for priority needs in the state. COMPASS has identified a need of \$127 million per year over the next thirty years to meet the transportation needs of the Treasure Valley. A functional transportation system is critical to accommodate the population growth and economic development of the Treasure Valley and the state of Idaho.

2. Local Option Tax Authority Legislation

The COMPASS Board of Directors strongly supports general local option sales tax authority legislation. Such a tool will provide local units of government the ability to request necessary supplemental infrastructure 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. The Idaho Constitution currently empowers the legislature to grant local option taxing authority to local units of government.

3. Fourth Year Funding Approval of GARVEE Bonding Program

The COMPASS Board of Directors strongly supports continuation of the Idaho Transportation Board'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.

4. State Tax Anticipation Revenue (STAR) Financing

The COMPASS Board of Directors supports amending the Sales Tax Anticipation Revenue financing mechanism to provide a more broadly applicable transportation project financing tool. The Board applauds the 2007 Idaho Legislature for creating the STAR tool as an additional, creative option for funding state highway improvements.

5. Transportation Access Plan Legislation

The COMPASS Board of Directors strongly supports legislation providing a mechanism for the Idaho Transportation Department Board, 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.

6. Air Quality Improvement

The COMPASS Board of Directors supports legislation and agency rules designed to address air quality challenges in the Treasure Valley. The Treasure Valley airshed faces potential non-attainment of EPA air quality standards for ozone. Non-attainment status could have a drastic negative impact on the Treasure Valley economy and the ability to develop badly needed transportation projects in Ada and Canyon Counties.

800 S. Industry Way, Ste 100

Meridian, ID 83642

P. 208.855.2558

F. 208.855.2559

www.compassidaho.org