

**COMPASS BOARD of DIRECTORS'**  
**2012 LEGISLATIVE POSITION STATEMENTS**  
(Approved December 19, 2011)



**2012 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 Governor's Task Force on Modernizing Transportation Funding in Idaho reports a \$632 million annual shortfall to maintain and achieve performance goals for roadway needs in the state. 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. GARVEE Bonding Authority for Idaho Bridge Program**

The COMPASS Board of Directors strongly supports utilizing remaining GARVEE Bonding authority for the creation of an Idaho Bridge Program. Due to cost savings from the projects identified and authorized in the Connecting Idaho program, approximately \$140 million of expenditure authority remains in the Connecting Idaho program. The GARVEE program has proven to be a critical tool in Idaho's efforts to meet the challenges and demands of the state's transportation infrastructure needs. COMPASS supports utilizing the remaining GARVEE authority to create a bridge program to address Idaho's bridge maintenance challenges.

**4. Bicycle Safety Legislation**

The COMPASS Board of Directors supports legislation which provides greater infrastructure safety enhancements for bicyclists on Idaho's local roads and highways. Such legislation will provide revenue enhancements to incorporate bicycle lanes and/or roadway shoulder widths conducive to bicycle and pedestrian safety and increase safety for all roadway users.

**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.