

Public Transportation Needs to 2040...In a Nutshell

<p>What is public transportation?</p>	<p>Public transportation is a shared passenger transportation service that is available for use by the general public. It provides low cost transportation options for people who choose not to drive, or cannot drive because of income, disability, age, or other factors. It is different from private transportation options, such as taxis or chartered bus services, which are arranged privately and are usually not supported with public funding.</p>
<p>What do we know about support and use of public transportation in Ada and Canyon Counties?</p>	<p>According to a 2014 public transportation survey, two-thirds of residents in Ada and Canyon Counties state that they are supporters of public transportation in the Treasure Valley. Of those residents who currently use public transportation, just over one-half of all riders have a driver's license and less than one-third have ready access to a vehicle, suggesting that they have few choices other than public transportation. Monthly ridership of Valley Regional Transit buses in the Treasure Valley has grown from an average of 90,000 in 2005 to nearly 124,000 in 2014.</p>
<p>What is COMPASS?</p>	<p>The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, COMPASS, is an association of cities, counties, highway districts, and other governmental agencies who plan for the future of Ada and Canyon Counties. The organization brings together regional leaders to coordinate decision-making and collaborate on shared goals. Among other functions, COMPASS conducts long-range transportation planning for Ada and Canyon Counties.</p>
<p>What is COMPASS' role in public transportation?</p>	<p>COMPASS develops a regional long-range transportation plan every four years. That plan, <i>Communities in Motion</i>, looks out 20+ years to forecast growth in Ada and Canyon Counties and plan for the transportation system necessary to accommodate that growth. The current plan looks to the year 2040 (<i>Communities in Motion 2040</i>) and plans for <u>all</u> types of transportation – roads, public transportation, and active transportation, such as biking and walking.</p>
<p>How much will Ada and Canyon Counties grow between now and 2040?</p>	<p>By 2040, it is expected that Ada and Canyon Counties will have a combined population of 1,022,000 and 462,000 jobs. For comparison, in 2014, the area was home to 600,000 people and 287,000 jobs.</p>
<p>What are the future transportation needs?</p>	<p>In <i>Communities in Motion 2040</i>, COMPASS outlines needed transportation projects for which funding is available. However, transportation funding, especially funding for public transportation, is severely limited. Therefore, the majority of the needs described in <i>Communities in Motion 2040</i> are <u>unfunded</u>. These unfunded needs have been prioritized and will be the first projects considered for funding when, and if, additional monies become available.</p>
<p>Are there public transportation needs on that list?</p>	<p>Yes. Public transportation is an important part of our transportation system, and will become even more so as our population grows. Nine of the 33 unfunded needs are public transportation-related. <u>Without additional funding for public transportation, these prioritized needs will remain unfunded.</u> A full list of all 33 unfunded needs outlined in <i>Communities in Motion 2040</i>, along with descriptions of the needed projects, can be found at www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2040.htm#Plan.</p>
<p>What are the prioritized unfunded public transportation needs in Ada and Canyon Counties?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority #2: State Highway 44/State Street high capacity public transportation corridor • Priority #5: Regional park and ride lots (near-term improvements) • Priority #10: Regional park and ride lots (medium-term improvements) • Priority #11: valleyconnect public transportation plan, near-term capital/operating projects • Priority #12: Treasure Valley high capacity public transportation corridor study • Priority #15: Boise downtown circulator • Priority #16: valleyconnect, medium-term capital/operating projects • Priority #19: Overland Road (Boise), multi-modal corridor plan • Priority #29: <i>Communities in Motion 2040</i> long-term capital/operating projects
<p>How is public transportation funded in Idaho?</p>	<p>The majority of public transportation funding in Idaho comes from local municipalities, primarily through property taxes, and from the federal government. Idaho does not have a dedicated funding source for public transportation.</p>
<p>Where can I learn more?</p>	<p><i>Communities in Motion 2040</i>: www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2040.htm valleyconnect: www.valleyregionaltransit.org/PROJECTSSTUDIES/REGIONALOPERATIONS/VALLEYCONNECT.aspx</p>