

Making Sense of the TIP

The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) develops the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, or "TIP," for Ada and Canyon Counties. The TIP is a five-year budget of federally funded and "regionally significant" transportation projects in the two-county area.

COMPASS updates the TIP annually and makes smaller changes – amendments – to the TIP throughout the year. You may have seen notices of requests for public comment on the TIP update or TIP amendments and looked at the TIP project list to see what's there.

If you've done that, you have seen projects listed like the one below. While each project is different, each project entry contains the same types of information. A guide to what that information is, and what it means, is provided below. The letters on the sample project entry correspond to the description below the graphic.

A **10th Avenue Bridge, Caldwell**

B Key #: 13055

E Requesting Agency: City of Caldwell
 Project Year: 2019
 Total Previous Expenditures: \$546
 Total Programmed Cost: \$2,413
 Total Cost (Prev. + Prog.): \$2,959

C **COMPASS PM:**
 Transportation Infrastructure
 Environmental Sustainability
 Land Use

D **Federal PM:**



Cost Year*	STP-U			L Program Local Hwy - Bridge				M Local Match 7.34%	
	Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary Engineering Consulting	Right-of-Way	Utilities	Construction Engineering	Construction	Total	Federal Share	Local Share
2019	0	0	0	0	528	1,885	2,413	2,236	177
2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund Totals:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$528	\$1,885	\$2,413	\$2,236	\$177

- A. Project Title.** This provides a high level description of the project and generally includes the project type and where the project is located.
- B. Key #.** This is a unique identification number. It is useful if you want to follow the progress of a project over the years and can be used to search for a project within a TIP document.
- C. COMPASS PM.** These are the types (categories) of long-range transportation plan (*Communities in Motion*) performance measures supported by the project. Projects in the TIP must contribute to implementing *Communities in Motion* by supporting at least one of the plan's 56 performance measures (grouped into 13 categories). Many projects support performance measures in multiple categories; up to five categories are shown per project.
- D. Federal PM.** These icons show how projects in the TIP contribute to implementing performance measures required by federal agencies. Projects may support performance measures in up to eight categories; up to three are shown in the project description. Definitions can be located in the "[Unraveling the Jargon](#)" fact sheet or the TIP document, along with the targets for these measures.
- E. Requesting Agency:** This tells you what agency will receive the funding, do the work, and (usually) is providing the local match, when applicable. In short, it is who "owns" the project.

- F. Project Year:** This shows the year or years of construction or procurement; depending on circumstances, other portions of the project (e.g., design) may occur prior to the years listed.
- G. Total Previous Expenditures:** The dollar amount shown here represents money approved to be spent prior to the current TIP (in this case, FY2019). Many projects take several years to complete and may have been started before the first year shown in the current TIP. For example, if a project began in 2017, the money approved for expenditure in FY2017 would not be included in the table, as the table begins with FY2019, so it is shown here. If this is \$0, it means that no money was approved for expenditure before the first year shown in the table.
- H. Total Programmed Cost:** This is the total of the costs budgeted in this TIP, as shown in the table. It does not include any previous expenditures.
- I. Total Cost:** This is the full cost – money already approved plus money budgeted, but not yet spent across all years. It is the sum of the “total previous expenditures” and “total programmed cost.” All dollar amounts in the TIP are shown in thousands of dollars (e.g., \$1,000 in the TIP = \$1,000,000). The TIP is available showing dollar amounts as either “current” dollars (not adjusted for inflation) or “year of expenditure” (adjusted for future inflation). The version provided for public comment shows “current” dollars; once approved, both versions of the final TIP are provided on the COMPASS website at www.compassidaho.org/prodserve/transimprovement.htm.
- J. Project Description:** This describes the project in more detail than the project title and project type, above. Note that maintenance projects typically have a broad description, as they encompass many individual projects. The requesting agency will have more details on these, particularly as the project year approaches. Links to those agencies are provided in the TIP, when available.
- K. Funding Source:** This refers to the type of funding used for that project (e.g., “Bridge” or “STP”). A description of the funding sources and their abbreviations can be found in a companion fact sheet online at www.compassidaho.org/prodserve/transimprovement.htm. Note that an individual project can have multiple funding sources and that each funding source has its own table, showing how the funds will be spent, and in which year(s).
- L. Program:** This describes the type of work (e.g., local highway bridge) or type of goal (e.g., safety) met by the project, as described by the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). It matches ITD’s classification of projects in their statewide “ITIP” (<http://itd.idaho.gov/funding/?target=itip>).
- M. Local Match:** This shows how much of the total project will be paid for with local funds — usually by the “requesting agency,” though in some cases other agencies may contribute as well. As can be seen in the table, the majority of the funding for these projects is federal. Some projects are fully funded by the local sponsor; thus, 100% of the project is shown as “local match.”
- N. Table Column Headings:** Each of these (preliminary engineering, right-of-way, etc.) describe the type of activity the funds will be spent on. The “total” column shows a sum of all types of expenditures for each year. The “federal share” and “local share” headings show how federal and local funds are divided each year. Added together, these also sum to the amount in the “total” column for each year.
- O. PD:** This row (short for “preliminary development”) shows projects where some initial work is budgeted (e.g., purchasing land for right-of-way), but there is not funding budgeted for project construction. Projects listed in PD must show the total cost (all years), regardless of how far into the future the project may be completed. These costs are included in the “total programmed costs” discussed above.
- P. Fund Totals:** These show the total amounts budgeted for each type of activity across all years shown in the TIP. The “total” is a sum of all types of expenditures (preliminary engineering through construction) and is also a sum of the federal and local shares.

The “shorthand” helps make the document more succinct, which makes it easier to use and navigate, yet at the same time the abbreviations and technical terms require some assistance to understand. More information on the TIP is available at www.compassidaho.org/prodserve/transimprovement.htm. Or, contact COMPASS staff for assistance at 208/855-2558 or info@compassidaho.org.