

## 10<sup>th</sup> Street Merchants March 4, 2009 Opposition

The downtown Boise 10<sup>th</sup> Street business owners joined together and had an information and comment session March 4, 2009, at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel. It was held at the same time as the Treasure Valley High Capacity Transit Public Open House.

Their comment form disapproved of the 10<sup>th</sup> street site as a location for the High Capacity Transit Site.

Their concerns are summarized below:

- › A decision is being made too hastily on a location site and will not result in a “premiere” transit center, but will result in a “glorified bus stop.” The original plan called for a “center”, not an in-street location. What happened to that promise? Also, why have no other “in-street” options been looked at besides 10<sup>th</sup> Street? The new concept on 10<sup>th</sup> Street eliminates bike and taxi lanes.
- › Due to the short notice of the newly proposed site, many people feel they can’t make an informed decision. In addition, comparisons to Washington do not fit the model in Boise as they did not have businesses in place BEFORE their transit centers were built. Conceptual renderings of the proposed transit center do not allow good decision making.
- › There seems to be a lack of concern for long-time businesses owners in this area, and that some may even go out of business, given this economic crisis we’re currently in. For example, businesses would have trouble receiving deliveries due to conflict with buses. Limited access to streets, or street closures would affect the public and businesses. The integrity of the historic character of 10<sup>th</sup> Street will be compromised. As many as 250 buses a day passing by these businesses is unreasonable. Increased crime and vandalism after hours is another concern.
- › Site H should be chosen since it has already gone through a three-year approval process.

## **Robert Riebe Customer Survey**

Robert Riebe is the owner of Riebe's Downtown Shoe Repair, which is located at 109 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St. He created a simple survey that asked customers if they would be more or less likely to frequent his shop due to the addition of a 10<sup>th</sup> street multimodal transportation center, or if they would be unaffected by this event.

He questioned every customer who came into his shop for one week.

Of the 249 people who responded:

- › Almost half (45%) said they would be less likely to frequent his business.
- › 72% did not think 10<sup>th</sup> Street was a good location for a transit center.

Although he appreciates the effort to modernize Boise with a mass transit system, Mr. Riebe feels it will adversely affect business owners on 10<sup>th</sup> Street to the point they would be unable to recover.