

COMPASS seeks feedback on transportation projects in Ada, Canyon counties

The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho is seeking public comment on transportation projects in Ada and Canyon counties budgeted for the next five years, and on proposed changes to Communities in Motion 2040, its regional long-range transportation plan.

Among the most prominent proposed changes to Communities in Motion 2040 are the additions of funding to widen portions of State Highway 44 and U.S. Highway 20/26, the No. 2 and No. 3 top unfunded priorities in Ada and Canyon counties as prioritized in Communities in Motion 2040.

“The proposed changes do not cover the entirety of the unfunded needs along these two corridors,” said COMPASS Principal Planner and Communities in Motion project manager Liisa Itkonen, “but they do represent a significant step forward in addressing regional priorities.”

The five-year budget, the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, contains over 150 federally funded and “regionally significant” projects that address regional transportation needs – from roads, bridges, and buses, to pathways, sidewalks, and more – funded between FY2018 and 2022.

For each project, the document provides a brief description, costs and funding, and information on how it relates to goals established in Communities in Motion 2040. Projects include:

- Improve Peckham Road from US 95 in Wilder to Notus Road in Greenleaf
- Design and construct a one-mile segment of the city of Meridian's multi-use pathway along Five Mile Creek from the wastewater treatment plant to Black Cat Road
- Replace ValleyRide buses, per Valley Regional Transit's established replacement schedule

The five-year budget also includes the federal program of projects proposed for funding by Valley Regional Transit. The COMPASS public participation process is being used to satisfy Valley Regional Transit’s urbanized area formula grant program of projects public outreach requirement.

COMPASS is asking people to review the proposed changes to Communities in Motion 2040 and the projects in the five-year budget and let COMPASS know if they agree, or disagree, with the proposed projects and changes.

“Funding is extremely tight,” Itkonen said. “Our goal is to make the best use of our limited federal transportation dollars.”

COMPASS is also accepting comments on the air quality conformity demonstration for both the FY2018-2022 budget and Communities in Motion 2040. This demonstration shows that projects in the five-year budget and Communities in Motion 2040 will not harm air quality.

Comment materials are available:

- Online at www.compassidaho.org (follow links to “public comment”)

- At libraries and other public locations (a list of locations is available online [above] or by calling 855-2558)
- At the COMPASS office (700 NE Second Street, Suite 200, Meridian)
- At a public open house on Aug. 8
 - o 2-7:30 p.m.; overview presentations at 6 p.m.
 - o COMPASS, First Floor Board Room, 700 NE Second Street, Meridian

COMPASS will host a live Q&A event on Facebook at 11 a.m. Aug. 3 to share additional information. Log on to www.facebook.com/COMPASSIdaho/ during the event to watch, listen, and ask questions.

Comments must be submitted in writing and received no later than 11:59 p.m. Aug. 15. Follow the link above to comment online or direct comments and questions to COMPASS, 700 NE Second Street, Suite 200, Meridian, ID 83642; info@compassidaho.org; or fax to 208-855-2559. Those needing assistance in submitting comments should contact COMPASS at 208-855-2558.