The Treasure Valley is growing. What are local officials plans for the future?

by Erika Lee
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BOISE, Idaho (CBS2) — Ada County Development Service and COMPASS Idaho (Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho) wrapped up a virtual meeting Wednesday night.

Ada County has planned for transportation, infrastructure, and budget for the next 30 years. They also opened up the floor for questions and ideas from the community.
Many problems have been caused by the rapid growth in Ada County these past few years, including overcrowding in schools, facilities, and a loss of a sense of place for longtime residents.

This is why they say it is essential to start planning for the growth and future of the Treasure Valley to ensure quality of life.

"It's almost crazy sounding, but if we reflect back to where we've been, 20 years ago Ada county had about 300,000 people in it," Ada County Commissioner Diana Lachiondo said. "And this year, 2020, we are gonna tip over into half a million."

Officials say more transit options can help reduce the overall congestion of the roads that people have been experiencing.

Lachiondo says Ada County is working on a development plan.

"We have the opportunity in Ada County to implement development impact fees," Lachiondo said. "It's a surcharge that is on a new development. That's one way for us to get at the cost of new growth."

To discuss how the growth will be paid for, Lachiondo says they will be meeting regularly with the six cities of Ada County in the next few months. As of right now, they want to hear from the people of the Treasure Valley to see the best way to move forward.

Ada County and Compass want to know how you want the Treasure Valley to be. You can participate here.