



Working together to plan for the future

News Release

May 9, 2017

Media Contact: Amy Luft, 208/475-2229

COMPASS Education Series Presents: Trails, Paths, and Dollars – Oh My!

Meridian, ID – Did you know we have over 500 miles of pathways in Ada and Canyon Counties? As we build and maintain our pathways, we are always considering the impact they have on our communities. Does having places to walk and bike attract visitors? Does it encourage economic development? Are there ways to calculate the impact?

The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is pleased to welcome Liz Thorstensen, Rails to Trails Conservancy, to discuss how providing places to walk and bike can bolster travel, tourism, and economic development. Join COMPASS to learn what this can mean to your community, neighborhood, business, and quality of life.

- Tuesday, May 16, 2017
- COMPASS; 700 NE 2nd Street, Meridian (first floor Board room)
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- **FREE!** Please RSVP to ctorkelson@compassidaho.org or 208/475-2232

Ms. Thorstensen will also teach a technical workshop on active transportation (walking and biking) and economic development Wednesday, May 17, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at the same location. This workshop is also free and open to the public, but will have a technical focus. Please RSVP as above.

Ms. Thorstensen serves as the Vice President of Trail Development at the Rails to Trails Conservancy, where she shapes and oversees trail development projects and programs that support healthy people, places, and local economies. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland College Park in Geography and GIS, and holds Masters degrees in Urban and Regional Planning and Local Economic Development from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the London School of Economics, respectively.

This presentation is being offered by COMPASS as part of its annual education series. For more information, visit compassidaho.org/comm/publicevents_2017_ed_series.htm#educ2017 .