

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 multi-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 ITS and Overlay, Caldwell

B Regionally Significant:

D Key #: 13905

E Requesting Agency: City of Caldwell

F Project Year: 2026

G Total Previous Allocations: \$248

H Total Programmed Budget: \$1,993

I Total Cost (Prev. + Prog.): \$2,241

J Project Description

Overlay a one-half mile section of 10th Avenue in downtown Caldwell from the railroad overpass to Interstate 84. Install intelligent transportation system (ITS) components and bring pedestrian facilities to current standards.

C TIP Achievement:

System Performance Asset Management

K N O P	Funding Source STBG-U		L Program Local Hwy - Urban					M Local Match 7.34%		
	Cost Year*	Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary Engineering Consulting	Right-of-Way	Utilities	Construction Engineering	Construction	Total	Federal Share	Local Share
	2026	0	0	0	0	157	1,836	1,993	1,847	146
	Fund Totals:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$157	\$1,836	\$1,993	\$1,847	\$146

- A. Project Title.** This provides a high level description of the project; it generally includes the project type and where the project is located.
- B. Regionally Significant.** A check in this box indicates the project is large enough to be considered "significant" to the region. These are projects on principal arterials or the interstate that add through lanes, as well as studies needed to prepare for these projects. Alternative transportation projects (transit and pathways) that are considered "significant" are also included.
- C. TIP Achievement.** These are the types (categories) of performance measures supported by the project. Projects in the TIP must contribute to implementing the long-range transportation plan (*Communities in Motion*) by supporting at least one of the plan's performance measures (grouped into eight categories). Required federal performance measures supported by the project are also listed. Definitions can be found in the "Unraveling the Jargon" fact sheet (www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/transimprovement.htm#understand) or the TIP document, along with the targets for these measures.
- D. 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.
- E. Requesting Agency:** This tells you what agency will receive the funding, do the work, and (usually) provide 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. Some projects may say "PD" in this location instead of a year as shown in the example. See "O," below, for information on "PD."

- G. Total Previous Allocations:** The dollar amount shown here represents money approved to be spent prior to the current TIP (in this example, FY2021). 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 2018, the money approved for allocations in FY2018 - FY2021 would not be included in the table, as the table begins with FY2022. So, those allocations are shown under "Total Previous Allocations" instead. If this is \$0, it means that no money was approved for expenditure before the first year shown in the table. Note that all dollar amounts in the TIP are shown in thousands of dollars (e.g., \$1,000 in the TIP = \$1,000,000).
- H. Total Programmed Budget:** 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 to be spent plus money budgeted, but not yet spent, across all years. It is the sum of the "total previous allocations" and "total programmed budget." 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/prodserv/transimprovement.htm.
- J. Project Description:** This describes the project in more detail than the project title, above. Note that some pavement preservation projects have a broad description, as they encompass many individual projects. More details will be added as design on the project is underway.
- K. Funding Source:** This refers to the type of funding used for that project (e.g., "Bridge" or "STBG-U"). A description of the funding sources and their abbreviations can be found in the "Unraveling the Jargon" fact sheet (www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/transimprovement.htm#understand). 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 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. However, some projects are fully funded by the local requesting agency; when that is the case, 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. Year or "PD":** This row shows when different types of work on the project will be done. Some projects will have a row labeled as "PD" (short for "preliminary development") under the "Cost Year" heading, instead of, or in addition to, rows labeled by year. These projects will also show "PD" for the project year ("F," above). "PD" indicates that work is anticipated sometime beyond the first five years of the TIP, but the exact budget year has yet to be determined. Projects listed with "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/prodserv/transimprovement.htm. Or, contact COMPASS staff for assistance at 208/855-2558 or info@compassidaho.org.