



News Release

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COMPASS Board Approves Recommended Transportation System

Meridian, ID – The Board of Directors of the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) approved a recommended transportation system for inclusion in the 2010 update of *Communities in Motion* at the Board's January meeting. *Communities in Motion* is the regional long-range transportation plan for Ada and Canyon Counties.

Each metropolitan area in the United States with a population over 50,000 must complete a regional long-range transportation plan every four years. These plans look 20+ years into the future to gauge where growth is likely to occur and what improvements to the transportation system will be necessary to accommodate that growth.

The current plan, *Communities in Motion*, was adopted in 2006, which means an update must be completed and adopted this year.

"The transportation system approved by the COMPASS Board will be the basis for the 2010 update of *Communities in Motion*," states COMPASS Director of Planning Charles Trainor. "It is based on the transportation system recommended in the current plan, but has been significantly cut back. The federal government requires that we only include projects that can realistically be paid for. As the transportation funding outlook has become more dire, there are fewer projects we can afford, which means some projects must be removed."

"This doesn't mean, however, that our priorities have changed, nor have those projects been completely erased," Trainor continues. "Those projects that had to be removed are still important and we will continue to pursue funding for them," explains Trainor. "They will still be recognized in the plan as needed projects."

"We hope that the funding picture will turn around by the time we complete the next update in 2014 and that many, if not all, of those priority projects can once again be included in the recommended, funded transportation system," adds Matt Stoll, COMPASS Executive Director.

Visit www.compassidaho.org/documents/prodserv/CIMupdate/recjan2010.pdf to see a map of the recommended transportation system; this map shows the current road system and highlights those corridors (roads) with both planned (funded) and needed but unfunded improvements.

For more information on the update of *Communities in Motion*, visit <http://www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2035-update.htm>.

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