

The Public Participation Committee will encourage community involvement in Transportation planning issues in the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE MEETING

December 12, 2007

Marion Bingham Room, Boise Public Library

715 S. Capitol Blvd.

****Meeting Summary****

Boise, Idaho



ATTENDEES:

Brian Ballard, Co-Chair
Ester Ceja
Sunny Freeman-Genz
Miguel Gaddi
Pat Johnson, Co-Chair
Gary Segers
Brian Tandrow

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Linda Gossett
Julia Grant
Thad Hoffman
Rob Miller
Deanna Smith
Rachel Winer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marilyn Sampson, COMPASS
Terri Schorzman, COMPASS

CALL TO ORDER:

Co-Chair Brian Ballard called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

I. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

None.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brian Ballard gave a brief update on the local option sales tax legislation. He said the Idaho Transportation Department does not have the funds to do roads or infrastructure. A 2/3 vote of the electorate is required to create the authority and approve the tax and a 2/3 vote is required to approve the tax. The legislation has been bundled and funds are specifically for transit and roads. Ballard said the gas tax probably won't go up. The registration fees will go up and they are earmarked for Idaho Transportation Department. Ballard said the legislation has the Governor's support and opposition by those who oppose all taxes. The legislation will be on the COMPASS website.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Gary Segers moved and Miguel Gaddi seconded approval of the October 10, 2007 Meeting Summary as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

B. Public Involvement Efforts

Treasure Valley High Capacity Transit Study

Terri Schorzman gave an update on the public involvement efforts to-date and indicated there would be a day-long Open House January 17, 2008. Schorzman said four or more sites and how they were chosen, as well as the circulator routes and functions of the Downtown Multi-Modal Center would be presented. Public input will be requested.

Education Series 2008

Terri Schorzman introduced the FY08 Education Series and said the COMPASS Executive Committee has requested the series and hopes to see discussion about transportation funding as a result of the series. This series will be held at various locations with one being held at BSU. Each conference will have a reception from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. to allow community members to meet the speaker. The speaker will present his topic from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., then a question and answer session follows. The topics will be recorded, transcribed, and available on the COMPASS website. The speakers will also be available to meet with community leaders. The target audience is the general public, the COMPASS Board, member agencies, and staff.

C. Committee Discussion/Analysis/Status

Brian Ballard facilitated the Committee discussion regarding the Public Participation Committees (PPC) current status. Gary Segers suggested the Committee list what has worked and where there are “soft spots”. Committee members suggested the following:

What Has Worked

- PPC has been staff support
- Committee leadership
- Personal learning
- Diversity
- Different perspectives
- Think tank
- Objective perspective
- Neutrality
- Open Houses (public interface)
- Primary purpose to be an interface between public and planners

Soft Spots

- Waning membership (suggest 6 more people)
- Members with single agenda

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- PPC Mission
- Prefer to be more involved and the opportunity to be more involved.
- Lost sight of our real mission.

The PPC agreed on the following:

- Brian Ballard said the PPC had served the function of a think tank for COMPASS to bounce ideas off of and to entertain new ideas. Terri Schorzman said the staff and Board members appreciate being able to utilize PPC to serve this function. PPC functions as a think tank as well as serving the primary function of being an interface between COMPASS and the public.
- Committee members desired the opportunity to be more involved. Terri Schorzman said there are some projects coming up which will utilize the Committee.
- Many members commented on how much they have learned about the planning process. They would appreciate the opportunity for more training and recognize the need to be responsible for that. Terri Schorzman suggested training briefs before future open houses.
- Committee members suggested adding about 6 more committee members with a reminder to screen out people who do not have an objective viewpoint.
- The Committee suggested that the mission statement be put on the Meeting Summary and other communications to the Committee.
- The Committee suggested that Terri Schorzman send them email reminders for action items.
- The Committee asked to increase the number of meetings to once a month during the legislative session. PPC will meet in January, February, March, April and then at regular meeting times. The additional two meetings will be called Pulse meetings and will not have Meeting Summaries taken. They will be informal meetings.

V. OTHER

The next meeting and the first Pulse Meeting will be January 9th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

VI. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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