

Communities in Motion 2040 **Quarterly Email Update #4, July 2012**

This is the fourth in a series of quarterly email updates about *Communities in Motion 2040*, the next regional long-range transportation plan for Ada and Canyon Counties. Its purpose is to help you stay abreast of the behind-the-scenes planning progress and of opportunities for you to be involved.

The current long-range transportation plan for Ada and Canyon Counties is *Communities in Motion 2035*. This next version of *Communities in Motion* will look to a horizon year of 2040 and be ready for adoption by the Community Planning Association (COMPASS) Board no later than September 2014. Unlike the past and current versions of *Communities in Motion*, *Communities in Motion 2040* will be a long-range transportation *and sustainability* plan, with focus on housing, community infrastructure, and healthy living, as well as transportation.

All quarterly email updates are also posted online at www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2040.htm.

What has happened with *Communities in Motion 2040* (CIM 2040) since the last quarterly email update (April 2012)?

Planning Process:

- The information from the three scenario workshops held in February and March was synthesized to develop [four potential growth scenarios for public comment](#) (Active Corridors, Hometowns, Outdoor Playground, and Town and Country). The four scenarios were presented to the public for feedback from May 7 – June 17. Public comments have been provided to the COMPASS Board of Directors and technical committees to consider as they develop a final preferred growth scenario.
- The COMPASS Board of Directors began developing overall goals for CIM 2040 in June.
- COMPASS completed a test case using its new economic benefits analysis software (TREDIS) to analyze the economic impacts of reconstructing the Meridian Road Interchange. The test case determined a benefit/cost ratio, estimated the total number of construction-related jobs for the project, estimated the total number of jobs created as a result of the reconstruction, and assessed travel cost savings. The test case was successful both as “practice” in using the tool and in generating useful information for the Meridian Interchange project.
- A kickoff meeting for the Treasure Valley Transportation System: Operations, Management and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) project was held in May; 19 people participated, representing 10 agencies. The consultant team has begun meeting with staffs from affected agencies to discuss roles, needs, concerns, and thoughts regarding operation, management, and ITS in the Treasure Valley.
- The COMPASS/CIM 2040 environmental review workgroup met in May to review the potential growth scenarios and discuss where new growth might create conflicts with various environmental resources. The participating agencies were invited to provide their comments on the potential scenarios.
- Honey Creek Resources, a consultant to COMPASS, prepared a draft financial forecast for *Communities in Motion 2040*. After reviewing financial reports by transportation agencies and meeting with local staff and officials, Honey Creek analyzed the information and forecasted costs and revenues over the next 25 years. A critical piece of the analysis is ensuring that existing transportation facilities and services are well maintained.
- COMPASS staff obtained guidance from the CIM 2040 Leadership Team to focus federal funding on maintenance projects. Initial discussions have started with the CIM 2040 Planning Team regarding the process to prioritize transportation projects for CIM 2040, based on this Leadership

Team guidance. A process framework is currently being developed; however, the preferred scenario and overall goals for the plan (see above) are needed to guide the details of the prioritization process. Staff will continue to work through the summer to develop the process framework.

Public Involvement and Outreach:

- COMPASS solicited public comment from May 7 – June 17 on four potential growth scenarios. To encourage comment and share information, COMPASS staff held three open houses, gave 26 presentations to 532 individuals, participated in 11 public events, distributed 38 “meetings in a bag,” and conducted an extensive media campaign. A total of 283 comments were received (261 via comment form and 22 open ended comments). Results can be found online at www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2040-public_comments.htm.
- We continue to strive to keep our website up to date with current activities. Visit www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2040.htm for a clearinghouse of information on our progress, including links to this and future emails.

What will happen in the next three months?

Planning Process:

- A final preferred growth scenario will be developed over the summer and presented to the COMPASS Board for adoption in September. This scenario will be the basis for *Communities in Motion 2040*.
- The CIM 2040 Planning Team will develop measurable objectives and indicators to track success for the CIM 2040 goals developed by the COMPASS Board. The objectives and indicators will then be sent to the Leadership Team for consideration.
- A Operations, Management and ITS roundtable discussion/workshop is scheduled for September with managers, elected officials, and other decision-makers.
- The environmental review workgroup will meet after the COMPASS Board has adopted a preferred growth scenario to review environmental implications.
- The draft financial forecast prepared by Honey Creek Resources will be publically available in late July. The COMPASS Board will be asked to approve the forecast in August or September. Following Board approval, the financial information will be used to prepare the transportation plan in the fall of 2012.
- COMPASS staff will continue to develop the concept of “travel sheds” for the plan, and will work with the Planning Team and the Leadership Team to identify criteria for selecting travel sheds once the preferred growth scenario has been adopted by the Board. A travel shed is a way of looking at all aspects of the transportation system in areas that share similar characteristics, such as trips that lead to a specific destination.
- COMPASS will continue to develop a framework to prioritize transportation projects. Once a recommendation for a preferred growth scenario is provided by the technical committees (expected mid-summer), staff will start adding detail to the prioritization process to fit the recommended growth scenario. The Planning Team is expected to recommend a prioritization process to the Leadership Team in September.
- One of the new aspects of CIM 2040 will be a grant program to support projects that will help facilitate the implementation of the plan. After the Board develops key goals for CIM this summer, COMPASS staff will work with the COMPASS Regional Technical Advisory Committee to develop complementary goals, criteria, and processes for the grant program.

Public Involvement and Outreach Opportunities:

- COMPASS will launch the "Picture This! Treasure Valley 2040" student video competition. This contest will engage 7th – 12th grade students in Ada and Canyon Counties by asking them to create videos that reflect some dimension of the Treasure Valley in 2040 under the Board-adopted preferred growth scenario. This is a follow-up to the fall 2011 elementary age art contest; view the winners from last fall at www.compassidaho.org/prodserve/cim2040.htm.
- Learn more about the plan and the planning process with a presentation to your club or organization. Contact Amy Luft at aluft@compassidaho.org to schedule.
- Join the [Public Participation Committee](#). This committee of citizen volunteers encourages community involvement in transportation planning issues in the COMPASS planning area and assists COMPASS staff with outreach efforts. It is a great opportunity to learn more about and become more deeply involved in the planning process. Contact Amy Luft at aluft@compassidaho.org to learn more.
- Follow COMPASS on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/COMPASSIdaho>.

Why should I care?

We can control our own destiny instead of waiting for destiny to control us.

Planning for the future as we (you!) want it to be allows public agencies to set goals, adopt policies, and develop programs and infrastructure to help realize that future. We can choose to move along a path toward the future we want or we can choose to leave that future up to fate and simply react to outside forces.

Why do you think people should care? Reply to this email to share your reasons. We'll post them quarterly on the COMPASS Executive Director's blog at <http://www.compassidaho.blogspot.com>. Check it out to see what everyone else is saying.

Watch for your next quarterly email update in October 2012. In the meantime, if you have questions, comments, or want to become more involved, contact Amy Luft at aluft@compassidaho.org.