

Communities in Motion 2040
Quarterly Email Update #5, October 2012

This is the fifth 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 process 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 health, as well as transportation.

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

Planning Process:

- Based on public comment received on four potential growth scenarios, a draft growth scenario was developed that combined aspects of the "Active Corridors" and "Outdoor Playgrounds" scenarios (the two highest rated scenarios based on public comment). Through a series of workshops and meetings, COMPASS Board members, committee members, and other stakeholders developed a high level growth vision and worked through detailed demographic data and growth allocations to ultimately recommend a draft 2040 preferred growth scenario to the COMPASS Board. The Board reviewed the scenario in September and is expected to act on it in October. This scenario supports local comprehensive plans and includes goals of walkability, preserving farmland, minimizing congestion, increasing transportation options, improving jobs-housing balance, providing better access to parks, and maintaining environmental resources. Learn more at http://www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2040_scenarioplanning.htm.
- The COMPASS Board of Directors recommended 18 goals for CIM 2040, based on eight elements (transportation, land use, housing, community infrastructure, health, economic development, open space, and farmland). The CIM 2040 Planning Team developed objectives for the goals over the summer; the CIM 2040 Leadership Team will review and provide feedback on draft objectives in October. View the Board-recommended goals at http://www.compassidaho.org/documents/prodserv/CIM2040/CIM2040%20Goals_July2012.pdf.
- COMPASS began developing the framework for a grant program to support projects that will help facilitate the implementation of CIM 2040. As a first step, the Regional Technical Advisory Committee reviewed similar grant programs from other regions.
- An Operations, Management and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) roundtable discussion/workshop was held on September 27 with managers, elected officials, emergency management stakeholders, and other decision-makers to develop a vision for transportation system management and operations in the Treasure Valley. The workshop discussed operational strategies to cost-effectively address regional transportation needs, opportunities for regional collaboration, and ITS infrastructure investments needed over the next ten years to support the vision.

- A draft financial forecast for CIM 2040 was reviewed by COMPASS advisory committees over the summer, then presented to the COMPASS Board in September. The report analyzes financial information and forecasts costs and revenues over the next 25 years. The draft report ([available here](#)) will be brought to the COMPASS Board for approval in October.
- COMPASS staff discussed the “Transportation Investment Area” concept (formerly referred to as “travel sheds”) with the CIM 2040 Leadership and Planning Teams, highlighting how they are used in several other metropolitan areas. The Planning Team also began to discuss ways to identify and delineate Transportation Investment Areas in the Treasure Valley. Transportation Investment Areas are a means 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 continued to work with a subcommittee of the CIM 2040 Planning Team to develop a prioritization process for transportation projects for CIM 2040. The process will be based on the preferred growth scenario, as well as on overall goals and objectives for the plan.

Public Involvement and Outreach:

- COMPASS finished compiling all comments received between May 7 and June 17, 2012, on the four potential growth scenarios and provided them to COMPASS advisory committees and the COMPASS Board of Directors. Visit http://www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2040-public_comments.htm to view the comments.
- COMPASS has uploaded video footage from the February 29, March 1, and March 2 scenario planning workshops to its YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/COMPASSIdaho>.
- COMPASS launched the “*Picture This! Treasure Valley 2040*” student video contest. Students in grades 7 – 12 in Ada and Canyon Counties are creating videos that showcase their creative talents and express their ideas of what their communities may look like in the year 2040. Help COMPASS spread the word! Please share this information with teachers, students, schools, clubs, and anyone else who works with youth. Visit www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2040_videocontest.htm to learn more.

What will happen in the next three months?

Planning Process:

- The COMPASS Board will receive the recommended preferred growth scenario for action at its October 15, 2012, Board meeting.
- The environmental review workgroup will meet after the COMPASS Board has adopted a preferred growth scenario to review environmental implications of the scenario.
- The CIM 2040 Planning and Leadership Teams will continue to work on objectives, tasks, and performance measures for CIM 2040 goals.
- Based on CIM 2040 goals developed by the COMPASS Board, COMPASS staff will work with the Regional Technical Advisory Committee to develop complementary goals, criteria, and processes for the grant implementation program.
- Work will continue on the Operations, Management, and ITS plan, which is expected to be complete in mid-2013. The end product will be a ten-year plan to efficiently manage the multimodal transportation system in Ada and Canyon Counties through operational strategies, regional partnerships, and ITS infrastructure.

- COMPASS staff will continue working with the Planning Team to define Transportation Investment Areas in the Treasure Valley. The area boundaries will be developed based on existing conditions and the preferred growth scenario and will help in prioritizing future projects.
- A prioritization process for transportation projects is expected to be recommended by the CIM 2040 Planning Team to the Leadership Team in November; the Leadership Team is expected to act on the prioritization process in December. More specific discussions regarding prioritization and Transportation Investment Areas, corridors, and projects will also begin in October and continue through the end of the year.
- The Regional Technical Advisory Committee will review the functional classification map developed from CIM 2035 and recommend changes for CIM 2040, if any, to COMPASS staff.

Public Involvement and Outreach Opportunities:

- The *Picture This! Treasure Valley 2040* video contest will continue. Entries will be accepted through January 7, 2013. Visit http://www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/cim2040_videocontest.htm for more information.
- COMPASS will be sponsoring a "photo challenge" for amateur photographers. Photographers (if you own a camera or even just a phone with a camera, that includes *YOU!*) will be asked to take photos of Ada and Canyon Counties that represent good things in the valley that they'd like to see continue into 2040 and things that represent positive change they've seen or would like to see. The purpose of the challenge is to encourage people to continue to think about the future and envision what they want it to be. COMPASS will post the photos on its web page, use them in outreach events and materials, and use them to help illustrate *Communities in Motion 2040*. Watch for emails or check the COMPASS web site for more information in the coming months, then plan what photos you'd like to submit.
- 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>.
- Read the Executive Director's blog at <http://www.compassidaho.blogspot.com>.

Why should I care?

We've been reporting on the *Communities in Motion 2040* scenario planning process for a year. It's been a long process, but well worth it. Good quality planning, with input from a wide variety of individuals and interests, will provide us with a solid foundation for a bright future with a high quality of life for Treasure Valley citizens. What's the alternative? For a tongue-in-cheek look at the consequences of not planning, click here:

http://goanimate.com/videos/09SwHjX2gwKs?utm_source=linkshare.

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 www.compassidaho.blogspot.com. Check it out to see what everyone else is saying.

Watch for your next quarterly email update in January 2013. In the meantime, if you have questions, comments, or want to become more involved, contact Amy Luft at aluft@compassidaho.org.