



COMPASS Seeks Public Comment on Draft FY2016-2020 Budget of Transportation Projects

Meridian, ID – The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is seeking public comment from July 20 - August 18, 2015, on a list of transportation projects in Ada and Canyon Counties budgeted for fiscal years 2016 - 2020. The projects are funded with federal transportation dollars and/or are considered “regionally significant.”

The list of transportation projects, called the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, or “TIP,” is essentially a five-year budget of transportation projects. In conjunction with the TIP, public comment is also being accepted on the federal program of projects proposed for funding by Valley Regional Transit and the air quality conformity demonstration for the FY2016-2020 TIP. The air quality conformity demonstration is a process through which COMPASS must demonstrate that the projects in the TIP will not harm air quality.

Comment materials are available:

- Online at www.compassidaho.org (follow links to “public comment”)
- At local libraries (a list of locations can be accessed online [see above] or by calling COMPASS)
- At the COMPASS office (700 NE 2nd Street, Suite 200, Meridian)
- At a public open house on Tuesday, August 4, 2015
 - 10:00 am – 7:30 pm
 - COMPASS, First Floor Board Room, 700 NE 2nd Street, Meridian

“One project that should be of particular interest is much-needed maintenance work on I-84 in Canyon County. Last year, funding for the two-year project was forecasted to not be available until 2020/2021, but the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) has been able to use new funding to move that project to 2018/2019,” explains COMPASS Principal Planner Toni Tisdale. “The condition of the interstate in this area has caused a great deal of concern for many people. We’re very pleased that ITD has been able to advance the project so that it can be completed two years earlier than originally planned.”

Other new or advanced projects include:

- Adding safety improvements along Cole Road in Boise, between West Spectrum Street and Century Way
- Reconstructing the Sand Hollow Interchange on I-84 in Canyon County
- Improving the Linder Road and Deer Flat intersection in Kuna
- Building a park and ride lot and bus shelter in the City of Middleton at Piccadilly Park

“I am often asked why someone should take time to review the TIP and submit comments,” states Tisdale. “I work with the TIP every day and realize it is daunting. However, the projects in the TIP are paid for with your tax dollars and will affect your commute, your transportation choices, and more. It’s worth taking a few minutes to see if you agree with how your tax dollars will be spent and letting us know what you think.”

“While you can review and comment on any project in the TIP, I suggest starting with the ‘major changes’ list. This list shows what has changed or been added since last year. It allows you to see what’s new without having to wade through hundreds of projects that are simply advancing through the process,” explains Tisdale.

Comments must be submitted in writing (via email or letter) and received no later than 11:59 pm Tuesday, August 18, 2015. Direct comments and questions to T. Tisdale, Principal Planner, COMPASS, 700 NE 2nd Street, Suite 200, Meridian, ID 83642; ttisdale@compassidaho.org; or fax to 208/855-2559.