



Working together to plan for the future

News Release

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COMPASS Receives National Technical Assistance Grant

Meridian, ID – The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is pleased to announce that it has been selected to receive a \$225,000 technical assistance grant under the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2), Implementation Assistance Program.

COMPASS is one of 21 transportation organizations nationwide to receive funding in this round of SHRP2 grant funding, and the only organization in Idaho. COMPASS is one of just four metropolitan planning organizations granted funding – the remainder of the recipients are state departments of transportation.

COMPASS will receive grant funding for technical assistance as a “Lead Adopter” in two categories: freight considerations and performance measures.

“We are honored to receive this technical assistance grant,” states COMPASS Director of Planning Sabrina Minshall. “*Communities in Motion 2040*, the long-range transportation plan for Ada and Canyon Counties, represents a step forward in integrated regional planning in southwest Idaho; however, we recognize that there are still gaps in the plan and the planning process. COMPASS believes that ‘what gets planned, gets built.’ This grant will help the region implement innovative processes for freight and performance based planning.”

The grant funds will help COMPASS better incorporate freight considerations into the next update of *Communities in Motion* and assist the agency as it moves from establishing performance measures to using them to guide decisions, which will result in more transparent and objective decision-making.

“While this grant will support and inform the update of *Communities in Motion*, the data, tools, and expertise we will gain from the grant will also benefit the region right away as we use them to implement the existing *Communities in Motion* plan,” explains Minshall.

“Though planning is important, the purpose of planning is implementation — making on-the-ground progress toward regional goals. This grant will help assist with both the planning and the implementation aspects of maintaining and improving our regional transportation system. In the end, it’s about improving quality of life”

The SHRP2 program is nationally competitive grant program jointly administered by the Federal Highway Administration and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.