



Working together to plan for the future

News Release

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COMPASS Board Advocates for Additional Transportation Funding Options

Meridian, ID – The Board of Directors of the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) identified legislative priorities at its Monday, December 19, 2016, meeting. The COMPASS Board of Directors is comprised primarily of local elected officials representing COMPASS member agencies – cities, counties, highway districts, and other government entities in Ada and Canyon Counties.

The priorities, identified in four legislative position statements, all highlight the need for additional funding for transportation infrastructure.

2017 COMPASS State Legislative Positions:

1. Transportation Revenue

The COMPASS Board of Directors strongly supports increasing and diversifying dedicated revenue for state and local transportation systems, including for transit and alternative transportation modes. Idaho's current transportation funding level remains inadequate to address the state's needs. While registration and motor fuels excise tax funding enhancements were implemented in 2015, state and local transportation entities still face critical funding shortfalls for maintenance and expansion projects. A functional transportation system is critical to accommodate the population growth and economic development of the Treasure Valley and the state of Idaho.

2. Extend, Expand, and Share "Surplus Eliminator" Provision for Transportation

The COMPASS Board of Directors supports extending the "surplus eliminator" transportation funding mechanism and implementing a 50/50 state/local share of those funds. The 2015 "surplus eliminator" funding has proven to be helpful for state maintenance projects, but local transportation systems would also benefit from increased funding and flexibility. Legislation should also allow such funds to be used for expansion projects to address safety and economic opportunity needs.

3. Local Option Tax Authority

The COMPASS Board of Directors strongly supports general local option sales tax authority legislation. Such a tool will provide local units of government the ability to request necessary supplemental infrastructure revenue for specific projects, as approved by local voters, through a local sales tax. The Board supports the concept of allowing such funds to be used for roadway and/or transit projects. Local option sales tax can provide a tool for local units of government to address local transportation challenges.

4. Increased Funding to Local Transportation Entities

The COMPASS Board of Directors supports legislation that provides increased funding and flexibility to local transportation entities to meet the increasing demands on local transportation systems. COMPASS supports increased funding to allow local transportation entities more control, flexibility to plan and complete local system projects to include roadways, bridges, bike and pedestrian pathways, and public transportation.