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News Release

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COMPASS Seeks Public Comment on Draft FY2017-2021 Budget of Transportation Projects

Meridian, ID – The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is seeking public comment from August 19 - September 19, 2016, on a list of transportation projects in Ada and Canyon Counties budgeted for fiscal years 2017 - 2021. The projects are funded with federal transportation dollars and/or are considered “regionally significant.”

Known as the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, or “TIP,” the list is a five-year budget of transportation projects. In conjunction with the TIP, public comment is also being sought on the federal program of projects proposed for funding by Valley Regional Transit and the air quality conformity demonstration for the FY2017-2021 TIP. The COMPASS public participation process is being used to satisfy Valley Regional Transit’s urbanized area formula grant program of projects public outreach requirement. 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 “TIP public comment”)
- At local libraries and other public locations (a list of locations can be accessed online [see above] or by calling 855-2558)
- At the COMPASS office (700 NE 2nd Street, Suite 200, Meridian)
- At a public open house on Thursday, August 25, 2016
 - 10:30 am – 7:30 pm; overview presentations at 6:00 pm
 - COMPASS, First Floor Board Room, 700 NE 2nd Street, Meridian

The TIP includes nearly 200 projects, totaling approximately \$364 million. It includes projects that address maintenance and safety needs across all transportation modes: roadways, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation. Projects in the FY2017-2021 TIP include:

- 2017 – Modify the I-84/Karcher Road Interchange in Nampa by adding lanes and reconfiguring on/off ramps
- 2018 – Add safety, maintenance, and trailhead improvements to Bogus Basin Road in Ada County
- 2019 – Rehabilitate I-84 from the Karcher Road Interchange to the Franklin Boulevard Interchange in Nampa
- 2020 – Improve the intersection of Linder Road and Deer Flat Road in Kuna
- 2021 – Add lanes on US 20/26 (Chinden Boulevard) between Locust Grove Road and Eagle Road

“The TIP lists what projects are on the horizon, along with brief project descriptions, project costs and funding, and how projects relate to goals established in *Communities in Motion 2040*, the regional long-range transportation plan,” explains COMPASS Principal Planner Toni Tisdale. “We’re asking people to review the project list and let us know if they agree with the projects chosen. Funding is extremely tight; we are not able to address every need. Our goal is to be strategic and make the best use of our limited federal transportation dollars.”

As the TIP is a five-year budget, most of the new projects are added to the end of the budget cycle (in this case, FY2021). Once in the TIP, most projects simply advance each year, until they reach the year(s) the money is spent. “While you can review and comment on any project in the TIP, I suggest starting with the ‘major changes’ list that accompanies the TIP. 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 projects that are simply advancing through the process,” explains Tisdale.

Comments must be submitted in writing (email or letter) and received no later than 11:59 pm Monday, September 19, 2016. Direct comments and questions to T. Tisdale, Principal Planner, COMPASS, 700 NE 2nd Street, Suite 200, Meridian, ID 83642; info@compassidaho.org; or fax to 208/855-2559. Those needing assistance in submitting comments are encouraged to contact COMPASS at 208/855-2558.