



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Highway
Administration

Federal Transit
Administration

Transportation Management Area Planning Certification Review

2026 COMPASS Federal Certification Review

Prepared by:

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Idaho Division

and

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region 10

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INTRODUCTION

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conducted the 2026 Planning Certification Review of the transportation planning process for the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS). The FHWA and FTA are required to jointly review and evaluate the transportation planning process for each urbanized area over 200,000 in population at least every four years to review, assess, and document COMPASS compliance with applicable federal metropolitan transportation planning requirements and laws as stipulated in 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 450 and 23 USC § 134.

PREVIOUS FINDINGS AND DISPOSITION

The 2022 review found that the metropolitan transportation planning process for the Ada and Canyon County area TMA substantially met the Federal planning requirements of 23 U.S.C. § 134 and 49 U.S.C. § 5303. As such, FHWA and FTA certified the transportation planning process for the COMPASS TMA on August 1, 2022. A summary of the corrective action, recommendations, and resolutions are included, see Appendix A.

CURRENT FINDINGS

As a result of the 2026 review, FHWA and FTA certified the metropolitan transportation planning process (MTPP) conducted by the regional planning partners Idaho Department of Transportation (ITD), COMPASS and Valley Regional Transit (VRT). There are no corrective actions or recommendations in this report that warrant close attention and follow-up. Both FHWA and FTA have included areas that the MPO is performing well in that are to be commended.

REVIEW SUMMARY

The 2026 TMA Certification Review was conducted by the Federal Review Team through a combination of COMPASS document reviews, public input and engagement, and an on-site meeting with COMPASS staff. The Federal Review Team focused on COMPASS' compliance with federal regulations under 23 CFR Part 450 and other relevant metropolitan planning-related requirements.

The review areas, observations, commendations, recommendations are summarized in the subsequent tables. For ease, the review areas are ordered by the CFR citation: 23 CFR § 420.117; 23 CFR Part 450, Subpart C; Appendix A to 23 CFR Part 450; as well as 23 CFR Part 490, Subparts B to H.

Requirements Citations & Assessment	Observations, Commendations, Recommendations and Corrective Actions
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS (MTPP) 23 U.S.C. § 134 49 U.S.C. § 5304 23 CFR § 450.306	The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process (MTPP) is designed to be continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C), ensuring compliance with Federal requirements while effectively addressing applicable planning factors. It employs a performance-based approach to decision-making and utilizes COMPASS staff, consultants, and local partners for implementation. The MTPP is carried out in coordination with ITD's statewide transportation planning process, with compliance ensured through COMPASS's 2022 MTP titled Communities in Motion 2050. Additionally, the process demonstrates effective stakeholder coordination with ITD, VRT, local governments, and other partners to foster an integrated planning approach.
ASSESSMENT: Compliant	Commendation(s), Recommendation(s) or Corrective Action: N/A
UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) Annual Performance and Expenditure Report 23 CFR § 420.117 23 CFR § 450.308	The FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) adopted August 2025, complies with all federal regulatory elements outlined in 23 CFR Part 450, providing a comprehensive framework for metropolitan transportation planning. It incorporates performance-based planning principles that align with federal mandates and facilitate data-driven decision-making. The UPWP emphasizes full and transparent public participation, encouraging community involvement to ensure that planning decisions reflect public input.
ASSESSMENT: Compliant	The FY2025 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER) provided to FHWA and FTA by ITD was accepted on May 1, 2026. The 2025 APER is posted to the MPO's website. Commendation(s), Recommendation(s) or Corrective Action: N/A
MPO DESIGNATION & REDESIGNATION 23 CFR § 450.310	The COMPASS TMA serves as the federally designated MPO for the greater Boise region including the cities of Boise, Eagle, Garden City, and Meridian and portions of unincorporated Ada County. COMPASS is responsible for coordinating regional transportation planning and managing the allocation of transportation funding in accordance with federal regulations. Its organizational structure consists of a governing Board of Directors, a Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC), and a professional staff led by an Executive Director.
ASSESSMENT: Compliant	Commendation(s), Recommendation(s) or Corrective Action: N/A

Requirements Citations & Assessment	Observations, Commendations, Recommendations and Corrective Actions
METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA (MPA) BOUNDARIES 23 U.S.C. § 134(e) 23 CFR § 450.312(a) ASSESSMENT: Compliant	The Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) encompasses the Urbanized Area (UA) along with a 20-year forecast period, adhering to federal requirements for transportation planning. Commendation(s), Recommendation(s) or Corrective Action: N/A.
MPO PLANNING AGREEMENTS 23 U.S.C. § 134(d) 23 CFR § 450.314(a) Transit Planning 49 U.S.C. § 5303 23 U.S.C. § 134 ASSESSMENT: Compliant	COMPASS coordinates with ITD, local agencies, and public transit operators to establish performance targets. Formal agreements and coordination meetings are documented to support this collaborative process. Commendation(s), Recommendation(s) or Corrective Action: Corrective Actions from 2022 Certification Review were addressed, and updated agreements were distributed to FHWA and FTA once finalized.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP) Interested parties, participation, and consultation 23 U.S.C. § 134(i)(6) 23 U.S.C. § 134(g) 23 CFR § 450.316 and 23 CFR § 450.324(g) ASSESSMENT: Compliant	COMPASS has demonstrated full compliance with the public participation requirements outlined in 23 CFR § 450.316, effectively establishing a clear framework for public involvement that includes targeted outreach to underserved populations. The organization has also embraced virtual engagement options, enhancing accessibility for all community members. Additionally, COMPASS evaluates the effectiveness of its public participation process reflecting a commitment to continuous improvement. Commendation(s), Recommendation(s) or Corrective Action: COMPASS demonstrates leadership in public participation through several best-practice initiatives, including: • Annual Education: Delivering “COMPASS 101” to the Board of Directors every January and hosting an education series for member agencies and the public. • Outreach and Engagement: Producing the <i>In Motion</i> podcast and distributing a public-facing brochure to support the PPP. • Stakeholder Collaboration: Actively engaging with community stakeholders through participation in long-range planning processes.

Requirements Citations & Assessment	Observations, Commendations, Recommendations and Corrective Actions
CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP) 23 U.S.C. § 134(k)(3) 23 CFR § 450.322	The 2022 COMPASS Congestion Management Process (CMP) complies with Federal Requirements under 23 CFR § 450.322 by establishing a systematic approach to managing congestion through the identification of performance measures, evaluation of strategies, and involvement of stakeholders in the planning process. Managing congestion can be a complex effort, COMPASS' process facilitates a continuous monitoring approach by using tools for staff and member agencies to screen packages of projects to understand what improvement types will improve congestion in the area. Commendation(s), Recommendation(s) or Corrective Action: N/A
ASSESSMENT: Compliant	
REGIONAL / METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (R/MTP) & AIR QUALITY CLEAN AIR ACT Metropolitan Transportation Plan 23 U.S.C. § 134, § 168 23 CFR § 450.324 & Appendix A Air Quality Clean Air Act 42 U.S.C. § 7401 40 CFR § 93	Communities in Motion 2050 (CIM2050) was adopted by the Policy Board in December 2022, and serves as a long-range, twenty-year plan that is updated every five years. It establishes goals for safety, mobility, environmental sustainability, and economic development, incorporating federally required performance measures and targets. The plan addresses multimodal investments, including highway improvements, transit expansions, pedestrian pathways, and bicycle infrastructure, while coordinating with public transit providers for regional integration. It also includes environmental mitigation strategies for habitat protection and pollution reduction. Additionally, the 2022 CIM references the 2022 Congestion Management Process to inform project selection and presents a financial forecast for revenues and expenditures over the 20-year period. Importantly, it aligns with the Statewide Transportation Plan and local plans to ensure consistency and compliance. Commendation(s), Recommendation(s) or Corrective Action: COMPASS' long-range planning process is defined by a commitment to continuous monitoring and iterative refinement. Distinct from many MPOs, COMPASS allocates resources to support the Metropolitan Transportation Plan beyond the mandatory five-year update cycle. This proactive strategy ensures sustained community engagement and facilitates more accurate tracking of regional growth, emerging trends, and data metrics.
ASSESSMENT: Compliant	

Requirements Citations & Assessment	Observations, Commendations, Recommendations and Corrective Actions
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) Annual Listing of Projects (ALOP) 23 U.S.C. § 134 23 CFR § 450.326 23 CFR § 450.334 ASSESSMENT: Compliant	Adopted on August 18, 2025, and most recently amended on February 23, 2026, the FY 2026-2032 TIP is a fiscally constrained program of regionally significant projects aligned with the CIM 2050. Developed through a performance-driven, outcome-based process, it supports federal performance targets (PM1, PM2, PM3, PTASP, TAM) and includes a required assessment of its impact on achieving those targets. While the annual listing of obligated projects (ALOP) can pose a significant challenge for many Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), COMPASS is demonstrating compliance with this requirement. One of the issues faced by MPOs across the country is the published lists often fail to capture all project obligations, including modifications and grouped projects designated for the region. COMPASS compiles and posts the listing of obligated projects at the end of each fiscal year and provides another status update in December (end of the calendar year) to account for any obligations that were not originally reflected. Commendation(s), Recommendation(s) or Corrective Action: N/A
TRANSPORTATION PERFORMANCE MEASURES (TPM) Performance Based Planning PM1 – Safety 23 CFR § 490.207 PM2 – Pavement & Bridge Condition 23 CFR § 490.307 PM3 – System Performance 23 CFR § 490.507 PTASP – Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan 49 CFR § 673.11 TAM – Transit Asset Management 49 CFR § 625.45	COMPASS demonstrates compliance with Performance-Based Planning (PBPP) and transportation performance management (TPM) as required by metropolitan planning regulations (23 CFR Parts 450 and 490). The MPO utilizes performance measures related to safety (PM1), pavement and bridge conditions (PM2), and system performance (PM3), ensuring that these metrics guide planning processes. Collaboration with ITD, Valley Regional Transit (VRT) and other local transit agencies allows COMPASS to set and support consistent regional performance targets in the metropolitan area. Performance measures and targets are fully incorporated into the CIM 2050 and the FY 2026-2032 TIP guiding investment decisions and project prioritization. The MPO integrates PBPP elements across documents, ensuring that performance measures related to safety, infrastructure, and transit assets are consistently applied. The relationships between the CIM 2050, FY 2026-2032 TIP, Unified Planning Work Program and Budget, and Congestion Management Process further enhance consistent planning practices. Commendation(s), Recommendation(s) or Corrective Action: N/A
ASSESSMENT: Compliant	

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

With the inclusion of Elmore County, the Board of Directors consists of 50 members, including elected officials from local jurisdictions, representatives from the Idaho Department of Transportation (ITD), and from Valley Regional Transit (VRT). COMPASS oversees several committees that support its regional transportation planning efforts.

PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION

A 30-day public comment period was also provided for the submission of public comments ending on May 15, 2026. No public comments were received.

JOINT DETERMINATION BY FHWA IDAHO DIVISION AND FTA REGION 10

FTA-FHWA determination: CERTIFIED

Based on the results of the 2026 Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certification Review of the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Idaho Division and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region 10 find that the COMPASS metropolitan transportation planning process substantially meets the federal requirements of 23 CFR Part 450.
