

News Release
February 24, 2026
Media Contact: Amy Luft, 208/475-2229

AI for Communities: Using the Right Tool for the Job

Meridian, ID – Questions surrounding the appropriate use of artificial intelligence – AI – is at the forefront of discussions across nearly every industry, and fields of community and transportation planning are no different. Should AI be used? If so, when, where, and how? What are the sideboards?

Join COMPASS for a lively presentation and discussion addressing those questions, and more, as we welcome a leader in examining the uses of AI in the planning field, Dr. Tom Sanchez from Texas A&M University.

Dr. Sanchez will share his expertise and insight into using AI to address the increasingly complex challenges that local jurisdictions face, including providing examples of how it can be used to enhance planning and discussing key ethical issues such as privacy and responsible use of AI technology. All are invited.

- Wednesday, February 25, 2026
- 5:30 pm Meet and Greet
- 6:00 – 8:00 pm Presentation
- COMPASS, 700 NE 2nd Street, Meridian, First Floor Board Room
- Free! RSVP: jgallup@compassidaho.org or 208/475-2226

COMPASS will also host Dr. Sanchez for a more in-depth presentation/workshop, “*Foundations of AI for Community Planning*,” on Thursday, February 26, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at the same location. This workshop is also free and open to the public; however, space is limited. Interested parties are encouraged to RSVP early to secure a spot and to bring a laptop to participate in workshop exercises.

COMPASS is the forum for regional collaboration in southwest Idaho that helps maintain a healthy and economically vibrant region, offering people choices in how and where they live, work, play, and travel. Among other programs, COMPASS conducts regional transportation planning and budgets federal transportation funding for Ada and Canyon Counties.

These presentations are offered by COMPASS as part of its annual education series. For more information on this and other education series events, visit <https://compassidaho.org/public-events/#EdSeries>.

###

