

News Release

September 28, 2026

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COMPASS Education Series: Economics of Active Transportation

Meridian, ID – Transportation funding is tight, so it's more important than ever to ensure that the region's limited funding is spent wisely. However, determining the "worth" of transportation projects can be difficult. This is especially true for active transportation projects, such as bike paths or pedestrian bridges, where few tools exist to calculate the benefits vs the costs. This type of information can be invaluable when decision-makers are confronted with difficult choices regarding which projects to fund with limited resources.

To explore how this can be done, the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, COMPASS, is hosting economist Chris Behr to explore how the benefits and costs of active transportation infrastructure can be calculated and how those results can be used to lead to more informed decision-making.

The presentation is free and all are welcome.

- Tuesday, September 29, 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 Mr. Behr for a more technical presentation, "An Introduction to Benefit/Cost Analysis of Active Transportation," on Wednesday, September 30, from 9:00 – 11:00 am at the same location. This presentation is also free and open to the public.

Chris Behr, Principal Economic Consultant with the engineering firm HDR, is the firm's technical lead for analyzing the economics of active transportation infrastructure. With a background in engineering and finance, and over 30 years' consulting experience, Behr has worked on projects across all types of infrastructure and has developed and applied a wide variety of analytical tools and approaches for examining economic impacts of transportation projects.

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>.

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