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**News Release**

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## **COMPASS Board of Directors Establishes 2021 Legislative Session Priorities**

*Meridian, ID* – The Board of Directors of the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) established its priorities for the 2021 Idaho legislative session in its December 2020 Board meeting.

COMPASS' 2021 Idaho legislative position statements remain largely unchanged from 2020, as they continue to focus on transportation funding, reflecting a regional transportation funding shortfall of \$250 million per year in Ada and Canyon Counties. Priorities include support for:

- Increased state and local transportation revenue
  - Increase state motor fuels excise tax
  - Index state fuels excise tax to rate of inflation
  - Consider alternative user-charge concepts
  - Reinststitute the "Strategic Initiatives" funding mechanism, which allocated a portion of any surplus in the state budget to transportation. This funding mechanism expired in 2019.
- Local option sales tax authority
- Dedicated funding for public transportation
- Statutory authority to implement High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes
- Dedicated funding for safe, community-oriented bicycle and pedestrian options
- Implementation of a weight/distance fee for heavy commercial and farm vehicles
- Property tax reform that does not inhibit taxing districts' abilities to provide the infrastructure and services that communities need and expect

The full text of COMPASS' state legislative position statements, as well as COMPASS' 2021 federal position statements, can be found at [www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/legislative.htm](http://www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/legislative.htm).

In other business, the Board of Directors approved goals and objectives for *Communities in Motion 2050*, the next regional long-range transportation plan, reviewed the draft vision for growth that will serve as the foundation for that plan, and recognized 2020 [Leadership in Motion](#) award recipients.

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.