



Working together to plan for the future

News Release

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COMPASS Survey Results: *Where do we grow from here?*

Meridian, ID – From June 1 through July 11, 2020, the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) asked Ada and Canyon County residents for their feedback on how the Treasure Valley should grow. The survey was the second in a series of four that will feed into an update of Ada and Canyon Counties' regional long-range transportation plan, *Communities in Motion*.

The survey asked for feedback on four different "scenarios" of how the Treasure Valley could grow to the year 2050, input into the most important regional values to consider when planning for growth, and feedback on various strategies to support the growth patterns featured in the different scenarios.

"All four of the different scenarios were based on the same future population of just under 1.1 million people by the year 2050," explains COMPASS Principal Planner Carl Miller. "What was different among them was where that growth was concentrated and what it looked like. Those types of differences will have a huge impact on our future transportation needs."

Highlights of survey results include:

- ✓ Respondents ranked growth management, affordability, and environmental health as the three most important values, of eight provided.
- ✓ When presented with four alternative "scenarios" of how Ada and Canyon Counties could grow to the year 2050, the "Ticket to Ride" scenario, featuring rail service between Caldwell and Boise and a mix of housing options, was the most popular, followed closely by the "Come Together" scenario, which featured increased bus service and focused growth in already developed areas to reduce impact on community budgets.
- ✓ When asked to rate different strategies that could be used to implement the four scenarios, fiscal impact policies and adequate facilities policies, both designed to help ease the impact of growth on local budgets, received the most support, followed by open space levies. A vehicle mile of travel tax (paying taxes based on how far a vehicle is driven instead of on how much fuel is used) was the least popular of the implementation strategies presented.

Over 3,100 individuals from all walks of life participated in the 10-minute survey, providing a broad spectrum of views and opinions. All quantitative results are provided on the COMPASS website at www.compassidaho.org; follow the link under "Hot Topics." Over 2,700 open-ended comments were also received as part of the survey. They will be posted in the same location shortly.