

# **Public Comments Received (Verbatim)**

## **Amendment to COMPASS' 2021 Participation Plan**

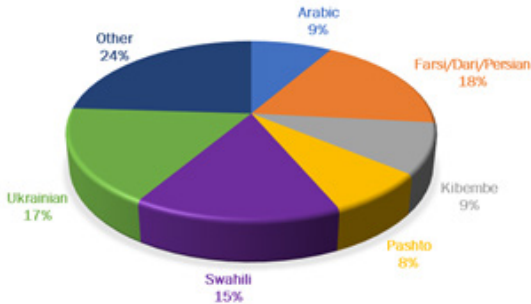
Public Comment Period: December 27, 2023 – February 11, 2024

Total number of comments received: 26

The proposed amendment would formalize COMPASS' commitment to working with its housing partners, allow COMPASS to use other agency's public comments to reduce redundancy, and add an additional type of comment opportunity for certain kinds of smaller changes or projects in the regional transportation improvement program.

| <b>Comment</b><br>(The comments below are verbatim, as submitted by the commenter. As such, typographical errors have not been corrected.)   | <b>Staff Response</b>   | <b>Name, Zip Code, Affiliation</b> |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| I agree with the proposed changes.   | Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors. | Lynn Davis<br>83669                |
| I agree with and appreciate most changes.<br><br>There are two changes listed that alter the 15 comment period to 10 or 15 days. I think you should stick with a 15 day minimum.   | Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors. | Michael                            |
| I'm a fan of efficiency and don't like to see work delayed for comments twice. I say go ahead with the changes, for what that's worth.   | Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors. | Steve Folkner                      |
| I am in favor of the Proposed Amendment to COMPASS' Participation Plan.<br><br>After reading the information in the proposed amendment, it is apparent that using data from surveys of other entities that address the same issue is efficient and appropriate.<br><br>The safeguards to keep participation in public input simple and effective are also welcome additions to the participation plan.<br><br>Thank You, | Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors. | Pike Teinert                       |
| I believe that you have some good ideas to improve COMPASS by coordinating with other government agencies to cure redundancy between them. It makes sense to coordinate with housing agencies by looking forward to residential growth in particular areas.  | Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors. | Gary Martin                        |

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| <p>On page 8: I object to the removal of "through email blasts" in the first sentence.</p> <p>This language should be reinstated, and opportunities to be involved should always include email blasts.</p> <p>In addition, I'd like it to be made very clear to the public how to get added to (or removed from) this email list. Public involvement should be made easier through the use of technology, not limited.</p> <p>I don't think a lot of people are following your social media accounts or visiting your website. I just checked. You have 827 followers on Instagram. Well, 828 thanks to me. Are you only wanting to seek input from 827 people? That is a mere 0.35% of the population of Boise and only 0.18% of the Boise metro area. Less than one half of 1%? This is your idea of seeking public input? This is shameful.</p> <p>The idea is to seek out and encourage more public participation, right? So, email is at least one way for you to actively ask for participation from the public instead of the public having to randomly come across the "opportunity" through some obscure social media post.</p> <p>The burden should be on YOU to find out what people think, not the other way around.</p> <p>Please advise me on the status of this change to the language of the document in question. I hope my confidence in you doing the right thing is not misplaced.</p> | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p> <p>I will follow up with you regarding the status of the proposed changes the week of February 12, after the public comment period closes (February 11) and all comments received have been considered.</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> Thank you again for your comments. Based on your feedback, COMPASS reinstated the use of email to promote all types of public comment periods in the final version of the amendment.</p> <p>COMPASS also has a new public comment brochure that summarizes the participation plan and how to get added to the COMPASS email list is prominently featured in that brochure, as well on COMPASS' website and other outreach materials.</p> | <p>Kimberly Sudac</p>                          |
| <p>I was looking over the public participation plan that COMPASS has produced as well as Title VI and EJ. The documents are sharp and crisp and are generally very notable. I am glad for the ability to comment.</p> <p>I noticed a couple of things that I have questions about.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The EJ map with TIP projects does not show any distinguishable EJ census block groups or census tracts, there is no symbology so it appears the whole two-county is entirely an EJ area. When do you expect to have those layers ready to overlay on the TIP?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Justice40 layers are already publicly available and should be at a minimum revealed on your TIP page as a layer.</li> <li>b. There was mention of other ACS or Census layers used to calculate EJ areas in Ada and Canyon...I think methodology and layers should be revealed in the TIP mapping website if COMPASS is talking about those products.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. COMPASS default website language translation is very euro centric, I know we have a lot of refugee communities in the T.V. and those languages should be accommodated on your website</li> </ol>   | <p>Thank you for your comments. They will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p> <p>I appreciate you bringing the map issue to our attention. Some of the queries in GIS stopped functioning. They have been fixed and the data are again showing correctly on the map.</p> <p>We will look into other translation widgets for our website.</p> <p><u>Update:</u> We have changed translation widgets to one that provides more language options.</p>  | <p>Duane Wakan<br/>Valley Regional Transit</p> |

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| <p>as well. This means going beyond Title VI requirements and reaching out to organizations that can provide feedback. I know this is not necessarily cited in the COMPASS LEP, but I feel it should be amended to reflect language needs beyond ACS data tables.</p> <p>TOP IDAHO REFUGEE LANGUAGES SPOKEN 2021-2023</p>  <p>3. I know the PPP mentioned amendments that would allow COMPASS to use other agency's public comments to reduce redundancy. I am concerned that this will reinforce some of the negative feedback that was highlighted from public comments surrounding the appeasement of transportation projects to elected officials and not to the general public. I feel more staff from all division at COMPASS should be in-tune with public sentiments and should attend local meetings more often and in more places.</p> <p>Thanks for considering my comments.</p> |  |   |
| <p>The City of Wilder and Wilder Housing Authority is in support of the proposed amendment to COMPASS' participation plan. Thanks.</p>   | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p> | <p>Wendy Burrows-Severy<br/>City Clerk/Treasurer<br/>City of Wilder</p> <p>Secretary/Treasurer<br/>Wilder Housing<br/>Authority</p> |

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| <p>COMPASS -</p> <p>I wish to register the following:</p> <p>I disagree with the request by COMPASS to rely upon other agency's public comments as a substitute for COMPASS reaching out and gathering comments from neighbors and neighborhoods for proposed undertakings. Frequently, the scope of other agency's comments is smaller in reach and may not attract the attention of those affected by the important work of planning in Southwest Ada County.</p> <p>Please continue to publicize opportunities for comment from those affected.</p> <p>Thank you for registering this input.</p>   | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> Thank you again for your feedback. In the final amendment, COMPASS did retain the <i>option</i> to use other agencies' public comments when appropriate but strengthened its commitment to <u>only</u> doing so if/when the other agency conducted a robust outreach process that met COMPASS' standards, to provide a balance between duplication of effort and ensuring all residents have an opportunity to be involved.</p> | <p>Sue Maben<br/>West Valley<br/>Neighborhood<br/>Association<br/>Board Member</p> |
| <p>I agree with the changes, especially including housing authorities in the conversation. Thank you for your work. Please add me to your email list for future notifications about comments on projects.</p>   | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors. We will add you to our email list.</p>   | <p>LaRita Schandorff<br/>Director<br/>Nampa Bicycle Project</p>                    |
| <p>As presented this sounds acceptable.</p> <p>Thank you</p>  | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p>  | <p>Ron</p>   |
| <p>I agree and support your proposal and amendment.</p>   | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p>  | <p>Pam</p>   |
| <p>Yes, I think the amendments proposed are great. I love when agencies/people take the time to step back and see if there is a better way to move forward.</p> <p>Thank you</p>  | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p>  | <p>Dana Biberston<br/>City of Eagle</p>  |
| <p>Thank you for sending this notification to me by EMAIL. It's the way I learn about most input requests, projects, etc that affect us.</p> <p>In this new proposal to make changes to requests for comments, you have eliminated most of the email notifications to citizens. I am totally opposed to this, Email is a much more reliable way of actually reaching people who are affected by your agency.</p> <p>It is imperative that you use ALL methods of contact to insure that the most number of citizens have a chance to opine on what COMPASS is doing.</p> <p>I hope you will abandon this proposal as it does not serve the public well.</p> | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p> <p><b>Follow up:</b> Thank you again for your comments. Based on your feedback, COMPASS reinstated the use of email to promote all types of public comment periods in the final version of the amendment.</p>  | <p>Mary Ann Lawford</p>  |

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| <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I oppose proposed amendment #2 [use other agencies' public comment opportunities], citizens need every opportunity to comment and that provision could curtail public input.</p>  | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> Thank you again for your feedback. In the final amendment, COMPASS did retain the <i>option</i> to use other agencies' public comments when appropriate but strengthened its commitment to <u>only</u> doing so if/when the other agency conducted a robust outreach process that met COMPASS' standards, to provide a balance between duplication of effort and ensuring all residents have an opportunity to be involved.</p> | <p>Jeff Schaberg<br/>Eagle</p>     |
| <p>Yes, I agree</p>  | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p>  | <p>Mac McOmber</p>                 |
| <p>The plan sounds reasonable. Keep it simple so it does not become burdensome.</p>  | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p>  | <p>Lynn Davis<br/>83669</p>        |
| <p>Sirs, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the compass plan. In general your plan looks thorough for one species values. Sadly it encompasses the continual erosion of the biota values for all species. Earth values, earth rights, seed needs of the planet.</p> <p>As a plant scientist and career Seedsman working worldwide I am cognizant the treasure valley is one of few of the planets critical seed baskets. We are losing this by developing this precious space to human development.</p> <p>Last count some 132 species of seed have been produced here. Many of these this is the best place in the world to grow. Losing this is a crime against humanity. I see no reference in your plans rhetoric addressing this critical need.</p> <p>Water, air, biodiversity and environmental health quality is eroding. The scope of development here is catastrophic. Why can't we limit this ? Why can't we control our species in greed of using up our environment recourses for short term economic gain?</p> <p>The natural world will win, always does in the long run. As we are in a mass extinction why can't we collectively see this will include us? Smart animals, particularly predators, limit their population. Our best estimate is earth could possibly "sustain" 2 billion people, we are at 8+.</p> <p>How about the compass plan address development growth in light of some of the above ?</p> <p>Thanks kindly.</p> | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p> <p>COMPASS is in the process of updating its long-range transportation plan (<a href="https://cim2050.compassidaho.org/">https://cim2050.compassidaho.org/</a>) and environmental considerations are part of that update.</p> <p>I encourage you to subscribe to our email list (you can do so by replying to this email) and watch for opportunities to share your input during that process.</p>   | <p>Ron Baker</p>                   |

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| We are good with it and thank you for the outreach   | Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.  | Allen Hodges<br>Idaho Trucking Association |
| I agree with the three major parts that would be part of the new Amendment.  | Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.  | Gary Martin                                |
| <p>I approve of the new changes as well as your Environmental Justice initiatives. I am pleased to see that your organization monitors and protects air quality and has an extensive participation plan. I am wondering what your organization is doing to help rural cities, like Pocatello, move toward electric buses?</p> <p>Thank you</p> | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p> <p>Regarding electric buses – Valley Regional Transit operates several electric buses throughout Ada and Canyon Counties (<a href="https://www.valleyregionaltransit.org/electric/">https://www.valleyregionaltransit.org/electric/</a>). COMPASS has assisted Valley Regional Transit in securing grant funding for these new buses and their charging infrastructure.</p> <p>The City of Pocatello and the Bannock County region are outside of COMPASS' planning area, so we do not have a role in assisting them. However, the Bannock Transportation Planning Organization (<a href="https://www.bannockplanning.org/">https://www.bannockplanning.org/</a>) serves the same role as COMPASS in the Bannock County area. I have shared your question about electric buses in the Pocatello area with them.</p> | Linda Engle                                |
| Yes I agree with the proposed amendment. Sounds like it will save alot of money and time.  | Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.  | Tammy Roby                                 |
| <p>Dear Compass,</p> <p>I think combining other agency comments to reduce redundancy a good idea and support the proposed amendment to Compass' participation plan.</p> <p>Thank you for thinking this through and bringing it to the table.</p>   | Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.  | Kris Crookham<br>Boise Idaho               |
| <p>The changes look good to me.</p> <p>I would also recommend that any feedback you get ='s a reply!</p>   | Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.  | --   |

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| <p>Greetings,</p> <p>Thank you for requesting feedback on the planned transportation improvements for Ada and Canyon counties.</p> <p>My biggest concern is the removal of all free flowing right turn access along State Street, especially the right turn onto Highway 55. This is already a congested area, and removing the free flowing right turn lane will only exacerbate the congestion here. It is especially noticeable during rush hour, when there is a high number of vehicles travelling west-bound from Boise toward Eagle.</p> <p>I would like to understand the rationale behind removing these turn lanes. There is no rationale or justification given in the report.</p> <p>My second concern is on the pedestrian crossing proposed for Chinden and 43rd street. The issue is not having a crossing, the issue is the method of the crossing. Having two stop lights in close proximity only exacerbates traffic flow issues, as experienced by the similar pedestrian crossway that was installed on State Street. I would like to suggest a pedestrian bridge be installed rather than a ground-level crossing that requires stoppage of traffic. Pedestrian bridges can be made wheelchair accessible with ramps, and would allow pedestrians and bicycles to cross safely without disrupting traffic flow.</p> | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p> <p>I am unaware of a proposal or project to remove free flowing right turn access along State Street. Do you have more information on the project or the name of the report that you mention?</p> | <p>Theresa Willerup<br/>Boise</p>  |
| <p>I agree with the proposed changes.</p>  | <p>Thank you for your feedback. It will be shared with the COMPASS Board of Directors.</p>   | <p>Debbie Moorehead</p>            |