



Working together to plan for the future

Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS)

Amendment to the [2021 COMPASS Participation Plan](#)¹

Metropolitan planning organizations, such as COMPASS, develop and use participation plans that describe the process for providing all interested parties with opportunities to be involved in the transportation planning process. COMPASS' current participation plan was adopted in August 2021.¹

This amendment makes three changes to COMPASS' participation plan.

1. **Include housing agencies and interests** on the list of types of stakeholders that COMPASS will specifically include in significant outreach processes.

Reason for proposed change: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, signed into law in November 2021, requires that metropolitan planning organizations, such as COMPASS, coordinate with housing interests. COMPASS has already begun this coordination; the addition to the participation plan will formalize and reflect that.

This change would affect the following section of the 2021 COMPASS Participation Plan:

Section	Page	Current Text	Add
Stakeholders specifically included in all significant outreach processes	27	No mention of housing	Stakeholder Type: Housing interests Examples of Outreach or Collaboration Methods: COMPASS Affordable Housing Advisory Workgroup One-on-one meetings

2. **Allow COMPASS to use public participation processes undertaken by other agencies on the same project**, if deemed sufficient by the COMPASS Executive Director. COMPASS would still provide the public comments received to COMPASS committees and the COMPASS Board of Directors just as it does for public comment processes undertaken by COMPASS.

Reason for proposed change: This will avoid unnecessary duplication of effort for both the public and public agency staff, thus saving tax dollars while providing a more efficient process for the public.

This change would affect the following section of the 2021 COMPASS Participation Plan:

Section	Page	Current Text	Add
How can I be involved?	7	No mention of other agencies' participation opportunities	We recognize that government processes can sometimes be duplicative. If another agency is asking for your input on the exact same project or issue, <u>and they have conducted a robust public comment process that meets COMPASS standards</u> , we'll share the feedback you provided them with our decision-makers and won't ask you to comment on the same thing twice.

¹ <https://compassidaho.org/public-involvement-plans/#PPP>

3. **Add an additional type of public comment process for changes to the regional transportation improvement program (TIP)** when the change is either:
- To reflect a significant cost increase², but the scope of the project is not affected.
 - To add or remove a project that is defined as “exempt” in federal regulations and is not considered “regionally significant.”³

For these types of changes to the TIP, the public comment period would be a minimum of 10 days and promoted through social media, email, and on COMPASS’ website. This change would not preclude COMPASS from providing a longer comment period or additional promotion if warranted.

Reason for proposed change: COMPASS is committed to a transparent process and providing all interested parties with the opportunity to comment on changes to budgeted transportation projects. However, COMPASS also recognizes that certain types of changes are more important to the public than others. This addition to the participation plan would help focus public attention on larger projects and changes while still providing the opportunity for the public to weigh in on smaller projects and changes.

This change would affect the following sections of the 2021 COMPASS Participation Plan:

Section	Page	Current Text	Change
How do I find out about opportunities to be involved?	8	At a minimum, we’ll promote all opportunities to be involved through email blasts, on social media, on the COMPASS website, and in legal notices. We’ll tailor additional promotion to fit the project or issue.	At a minimum, we’ll promote all opportunities to be involved through at least one email blast, on social media, and on the COMPASS website. Most comment opportunities will also be promoted through legal notices; we’ll tailor additional promotion to fit the project or issue.
TIP: What if things change?	12	If changes to add, remove, or significantly alter the scope of funded projects are proposed ... we’ll give you at least 15 days to weigh in. A full description of when, and how, the TIP is amended is described in the TIP amendment policy.	If changes to add, remove, or significantly alter the scope of funded projects are proposed ... we’ll give you 10 or 15 days to weigh in, minimum, depending on the nature of the change. Significant cost increases ² that do not affect the scope of a project and projects that are “exempt” and not regionally significant will have a minimum 10-day comment period; all other projects will have a minimum 15-day comment period. A full description of when, and how, the TIP is amended is described in the TIP amendment policy.
What’s required and how will COMPASS meet or exceed those requirements? TIP Amendment Column	29	Inform: Place legal notices (COMPASS-specific commitment) Involve: Hold public comment periods (... TIP amendments = 15 days)	Inform: Place legal notices (As appropriate) Involve: Hold public comment periods (... TIP changes = 10 or 15 days, depending on the nature of the change)

² Thresholds for a cost increase triggering public involvement are defined in COMPASS’ TIP Amendment Policy:

<https://compassidaho.org/resourcedevelopment/#FundPol>

³ “Exempt” defined in federal regulations: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-93/subpart-A/section-93.126>; “regionally significant” defined COMPASS’ TIP Amendment Policy: <https://compassidaho.org/resourcedevelopment/#FundPol>