

Transportation Champion

Winner: U.S. Congressman Mike Simpson

Description:

As an influential member of the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Simpson has had a positive impact on the infrastructure needs of the entire state of Idaho.

He was first elected to Congress in 1998 after serving 12 years in the Idaho Legislature – the last six as Speaker of the Idaho House of Representatives. His service in the legislature, coupled with a stint as a Blackfoot City Councilman, gives him a perspective on state and local needs that many members of Congress lack.

Congressman Simpson has been largely responsible for a number of transportation infrastructure projects around the entire state – and not just those in his Second Congressional District, including:

- Helping the Idaho Transportation Department complete dozens of state highway improvement projects.
- Helping fund capital needs of Idaho's Public Transportation providers – tens of millions of dollars for bus and van purchases, bus facilities, park-and-ride facilities, and bus stop shelters. Valley Regional Transit and ACHD CommuterRide have been significant beneficiaries of this effort.

A few of the local projects Congressman Simpson has been intimately involved with include:

- Securing funding for the completion of the new Boise Air Traffic Control Tower – a project that has drastically improved safety at the Boise Airport and Gowen Field.
- Helping secure funding for the Amity Avenue improvement project in Nampa.
- Helping obtain funding for the City of Caldwell to enhance the I-84 Exit 29 improvement project.

Congressman Simpson and his staff have educated themselves and remain actively engaged in the transportation challenges of the state and Treasure Valley and have not lost sight of the importance of infrastructure development and the impacts infrastructure projects have on the local and state economy.

On a federal level, Congressman Simpson is actively involved with working to shape the outcome of the Transportation Reauthorization bill in Congress. He has developed a reputation for finding bipartisan solutions to the nation's challenges and for that, he is the recipient of the COMPASS Leadership in Motion "Transportation Champion" Award.