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News Release

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COMPASS Seeks Public Comment on Budget of Transportation Projects

Meridian, ID – The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is seeking public comment on a draft seven-year budget of transportation projects in Ada and Canyon Counties. Comments will be accepted through Thursday, September 5, 2019.

“The budget, called the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, or ‘TIP,’ contains over 130 federally funded, state funded, and ‘regionally significant’ projects that address regional transportation needs,” explains COMPASS Principal Planner Toni Tisdale. “Projects range from large to small, and include everything from roads and bridges to buses and pathways.”

For each project, the document provides a brief description, costs and funding, and information on how it relates to regional goals and performance targets. The budget is updated each year, with new projects typically added to the “end” of the budget – several years before they are expected to be constructed, to allow ample time for planning, design, and other preparation. Projects advance through the budget as time passes. A sample of projects in the FY2020-2026 TIP include:

- Improving the Boise River Greenbelt along Cesar Chavez Road (south side of Boise River) between Theatre Lane and Broadway Avenue on the Boise State University campus.
- Rebuilding Cherry Lane between 11th Avenue North and Idaho Center Boulevard in the City of Nampa.
- Widening portions of US 20/26 (Chinden Boulevard).
- Replacing public transportation vehicles (buses and vans) in Ada and Canyon Counties.
- Constructing a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the North Channel of the Boise River in the City of Eagle.
- Improving the intersection of Linder Road and Deer Flat Road in the City of Kuna.

The TIP also includes the federal Program of Projects proposed for funding by Valley Regional Transit. The COMPASS public participation process is being used to satisfy Valley Regional Transit’s urbanized area formula grant program of projects public outreach requirement.

COMPASS asks people to review the proposed budget and let COMPASS know if they agree, or disagree, with the projects in it.

COMPASS is also accepting comments on the air quality conformity demonstration for the draft TIP. This demonstration shows that projects in the TIP will not cause the area to exceed established air pollution “budgets.”

Comment materials are available:

- Online at www.compassidaho.org (follow links to “public comment”)
- At libraries and other public locations (a list of locations is available online [above] or by calling 208/855-2558)
- At the COMPASS office (700 NE 2nd Street, Suite 200, Meridian)
- At a public open house on Tuesday, August 13, 2019
 - 3:00 pm – 7:30 pm; overview presentations at 6:00 pm
 - COMPASS, First Floor Board Room, 700 NE 2nd Street, Meridian

Comments must be submitted in writing and received no later than 11:59 pm Thursday, September 5, 2019. Follow the link above to comment online or direct comments and questions to COMPASS, 700 NE 2nd Street, Suite 200, Meridian, ID 83642; info@compassidaho.org; or fax to 208/855-2559. Those needing assistance in submitting comments should contact COMPASS at 208/855-2558.