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News Release

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Media Contact: Amy Luft, 208/475-2229

## Exploring Transit Options in the Treasure Valley *COMPASS Online Survey Asks How High-Capacity Transit Could Serve You*

*Meridian, ID.* If a “high-capacity” transit service, such as bus rapid transit or light rail, was built between Caldwell and Boise, would you use it? What factors would influence that decision? Where would you want it to take you?

The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, COMPASS, is asking residents of Ada and Canyon Counties to take a short online survey to provide input into issues such as these to help plan for a future high-capacity transit system. The survey is the third in a series of surveys, which collectively will feed into the next long-range transportation plan for Ada and Canyon Counties, *Communities in Motion 2050*.

“The first two surveys we conducted, in 2019 and 2020, both told us that there is public interest in a high-capacity transit system between Caldwell and Boise,” states COMPASS Associate Planner Rachel Haukkala. “We now want to explore that more, so that we can better understand how high-capacity transit could serve people’s needs.”

“High-capacity transit” is a broad term that encompasses types of transit that carry more passengers and are faster than traditional buses. Common types of high-capacity transit include light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit (essentially a bus that functions like a train). COMPASS is exploring all three of these as potential options for a service that would run between Caldwell and Boise, south of the Boise River.

“This high-capacity transit service would be just one part of the overall transit system,” explains Haukkala. “Planning for and developing this type of service is a lengthy process, and having it in place is still likely 20 or more years away, but the time to start planning it is now,” explains Haukkala.

“To do that, we need to know how people would use this type of service – to commute to work? For a night on the town? We also want to know what would influence whether or not people would use it – is speed most important? Schedule? Location of the stops? That type of information will help us narrow down the different options so that we can focus on those that would best serve our residents,” states Haukkala.

**Log on to [www.compassidaho.org](http://www.compassidaho.org) to complete the interactive survey in English or Spanish.**

When you have finished, share the survey link with friends and family so everyone’s voices are heard. The survey will remain open through Saturday, February 27.

Want to learn more, need assistance, or prefer to stay offline?

- Attend one of two live online presentations at [www.facebook.com/COMPASSIdaho](https://www.facebook.com/COMPASSIdaho), February 2, 5:00 – 6:00 pm, or February 4, 12:00 – 1:00 pm. Hear from planners and have your questions answered in real time.
- Watch a pre-recorded presentation anytime through February 27 by linking from [www.compassidaho.org](http://www.compassidaho.org). Submit questions online; responses will be posted each weekday.
- Request a paper copy of the survey or ask questions at 208/475-2229 or [info@compassidaho.org](mailto:info@compassidaho.org).

Survey results will be posted after the survey closes at [www.compassidaho.org/comm/comments.htm](http://www.compassidaho.org/comm/comments.htm); results from the first two surveys can be found now at the same location.