

Growth: Planning group releases findings, will hold more meetings in Nampa today

By Mike Butts - Idaho Press-Tribune

TREASURE VALLEY -- A better way to get from home to work. Nice pieces of open space for recreation. Maintaining a piece of the past.

That's how hundreds of residents envision the future of the Treasure Valley.

Of the nearly 500 people who attended area transportation and land-use planning workshops in November, most showed support for improved transit between Nampa-Caldwell and Boise, preservation of the foothills and farmland, and growth that includes development of downtowns.

The findings were made public Tuesday by the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho and the Idaho Transportation Department. COMPASS is a public planning agency that helps draw up blueprints for growth in the region.

In planning workshops this week, including today in Nampa, planners will again ask residents to participate in designing scenarios for growth in the area. This week's workshops, which are open to the public, will focus on transportation.

"These workshops are so important in terms of public participation," COMPASS Executive Director Matt Stoll said. "We're getting people interested in the beginning so they can actually craft how our transportation systems are meeting their needs in the future."

The workshops will allow participants to use maps to come up with scenarios for transportation solutions. From the workshops, a project team will develop a preferred scenario for future transportation systems, residential and business development and land and water conservation. Plans will include how to fund the proposals.

COMPASS spokeswoman Terri Schorzman said response to the November workshops was positive.

"We got a lot of good comments on how interactive they were," Schorzman said.