



NEWS RELEASE

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Public Weighs In On Vision of the Future

Meridian – Over 315 residents of the Treasure Valley attended two open house public meetings last week to view, analyze, and comment on two visions of the future presented for the long-range regional transportation plan, *Communities in Motion*.

The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) analyzed technical data and compiled comments from public workshops and meetings held earlier this year to arrive at a preferred growth and transportation scenario, "Community Choices." Community Choices proposes that each community have options in:

- Housing, such as single family, town-home, patio home, condominium, or apartment;
- Proximity of shopping and services;
- Transportation options ranging from automobile to public transit to bike paths.

The Community Choices scenario supports new growth strategies that are much different from current (Trend) growth and development. Residents who attended the public meetings learned about conceptual transportation networks that support Community Choices. The Trend scenario was presented as a point of comparison.

Over 82% of those who attended the open houses placed a poker chip in one of two boxes: one was labeled Community Choices and one was labeled Trend. The margin showed a preference for Community Choices by a margin of 6 to 1.

Materials from the public meetings, such as maps, scenario comparisons, financial data, and the comment form, are now posted on the web at www.communitiesinmotion.org. COMPASS will accept comments until October 20, 2005. The agency will offer the draft regional long-range transportation plan, *Communities in Motion*, for public comment in February 2006.



Scenario Comparisons

Community Choices

Community Choices proposes that each community have options in housing, such as single family, town houses, patio home, condominium, or apartment; in the proximity of shopping, services, and residential; and in transportation options ranging from automobile to public transit to bike paths. Highlights include an expanded public transportation system, shorter trips with more opportunities for walking and biking, fewer major roadway improvements, and infrastructure is sensitive to established areas.

Community Choices Transportation System Highlights:

- For every \$1.40 spent on roads, \$1.00 is spent on transit
- 1.5% of population rides transit (40,000 people)
- Fewer 5-lane roads (or larger) are built
- Households will spend \$217/per year on transit and \$302/per year on major road projects

Trend

Trend ensures that residential areas remain low density (2 – 3 units per acre). Homes are located farther away from jobs, shopping and services; and distinctions between cities will gradually vanish, resulting in solid urban/suburban development between cities in Ada and Canyon counties. Personal vehicles remain the primary means of transportation, transit services remain at levels similar to today, and fewer people walk or bike as more people move farther away from jobs, shopping and services.

Trend Transportation System Highlights

- For every \$9.00 spent on roads, \$1.00 is spent on transit
- Less than 1/2 of 1% rides transit (13,000 people)
- More 5-lane roads (or larger) roads are built
- Households will spend \$44/per year on transit and \$394/per year on major road projects