



## What is a “Scenario Workshop?”

**Scenario workshops** bring people together to consider how their community might grow in the future, including how land and transportation resources might be used.

Scenario workshops are educational for all who participate and are an innovative and enjoyable way to get public input into the long-range transportation planning for our region. Workshop materials will help participants understand how much growth in households and employment is anticipated and what key challenges we face in accommodating that growth. Working with maps, pens and planning tools, participants are asked to collaborate in small groups to develop a scenario that solves the key challenges and accommodates the future growth in ways the group supports. The workshops conclude with each group presenting its scenario to the other groups, and identifying similarities between the various scenarios.

### **What will the project team learn from the workshop?**

The knowledge, insights and intuitions of the community provide some of the best solutions to key challenges and the clearest perspectives on how and where we grow. Planners will compile the list of possible solutions and concepts for growth and develop a range of scenarios to test for strengths and weaknesses. From these we can identify the benefits, costs and impacts of each scenario on our lands, transportation system, environment and economy. Thus, a range of scenarios helps everyone see the trade-offs necessary to achieve the outcomes they desire.

### **Why is a scenario workshop important to transportation planning and *Communities in Motion*?**

Scenario planning is a learning process that allows us to brainstorm ideas, test them, and learn what works and what doesn't. Scenario workshops will:

- Draw the ideas from the community
- Discuss tradeoffs that come with choices about land use and transportation
- Establish mutual understandings and respect for what it takes to overcome our challenges.

Developing a range of scenarios and comparing the results of objective analysis helps identify the strongest and most desirable strategies and solutions. Decision-makers and the community discover ways to develop land and provide transportation services that achieve what is most important and protect what is most vital.

### **How will the information learned from the workshops be used?**

Transportation plans are already implemented on a regional basis, but a strong understanding of the connection to land use is missing. Regional planning for both transportation and land use is needed. Since local jurisdictions cannot plan outside their area of impact, the scenario planning process helps bring these two systems together into a seamless regional plan. Therefore, input from the community at the workshops becomes the foundation for the plans that guide the development of our future land use and transportation systems.



### **The Workshop**

Base maps, which are a close representation of current vacant and developed land, are provided to participants. Existing development, environmental constraints, existing open space, and vacant land are clearly defined. Supplemental maps represent features that are too confusing if included on the working base map.

Game pieces or “chip sets” are provided to participants that are scaled in size to the base map to depict forms of new development by type and density. They represent single uses, such as residential or industrial development, as well as mixed uses, such as main streets. A variety of chip sets are offered and each group of participants must choose one to apply to their maps. Each set represents a strategy to define future growth – either through a mix of redevelopment and vacant land or by developing only vacant land. Every chip set represents the same number of households and jobs that must be accommodated.

With the aid of trained facilitators, workshop participants place chips on the map to locate what type of growth will occur and where. Maps produced at the workshops are clustered by common themes and used to develop a range of scenarios for testing. Proposed improvements in transportation are used to run the transportation model.

The workshop lasts three hours.

### **Workshop outcomes**

Several scenarios emerge that represent unique themes produced by the community. Each scenario is then reviewed and modeled for analysis. The results are shared with the workshop participants during a second set of workshops and lead to the development of additional scenarios for testing. Following final testing and analysis, the outcomes will be shared with the public in an open house scheduled for spring of 2005.

The strongest and most desirable strategies gleaned from all scenarios will be incorporated into both *Communities in Motion* — the Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan and Ada County’s “Blueprint for Good Growth” project.

### **Workshop dates and time**

November 16, 9 a.m. to noon	Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho, Nampa
November 16, 6-9 p.m.	Hampton Inn at the Idaho Center, Nampa
November 17, 9-noon <b>and</b> 6-9 pm	Best Western Vista Inn at the Airport (Rocky Mountain Conference Center) Boise

**The workshops will begin promptly. Please arrive 10 minutes early**