

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ACT

» The act is an **entirely new act** that replaces the existing Regional Public Transportation Authority Act.

» The **two existing Regional Public Transportation Authorities** – Valley Regional Transit in the Treasure Valley and the Targee Regional Public Transportation Authority in the Idaho Falls region - would **continue as regional transportation authorities** (RTAs) and operate pursuant to the act.

» **One or more counties, or portions of contiguous counties**, can form an RTA by action of their respective county commissions. This forms the region of the RTA.

» RTA **boards are composed of one county commissioner** from each county within the region; **one mayor or council member** from each city in the region; **one highway district commissioner** representing all of the highway districts within a county, or, in the case of a county-wide highway district, one commissioner from that district; and **one representative from the Idaho Transportation Department** selected by the ITD board.

» **The RTA Board has two functions** – to develop a 30-year transportation funding plan and to implement it if it is approved by the voters within the region.

» The plan lists the “projects” in the region to be funded. **“Funding” means the planning, financing, constructing, operation or maintenance of any city, county, highway district and state highways in the region and public transportation systems.** The RTA board can decide to fund only highways or only public transportation systems, or both. **“Projects” are all or portions of any highway or public transportation system.** The term of the plan is 30 years.

» **Revenues to fund the plan come from a local option sales tax** – between 0.10 percent and 1.0 percent of all sales within the region that are already included in the state sales tax. The rate is initially set by the Board subject to voter approval.

» The Board may call an **election at either the May or November election of any year to seek voter approval of the plan and the imposition of the tax.** Two-thirds of voters in the region who vote must approve the plan and authorize the tax at the level set in the plan. Once the plan is approved by the voters, it may not be modified without a subsequent re-authorization by the voters. The **tax sunsets in 30 years** unless reauthorized by the voters at a subsequent election and again with the same requirements.

» Either at this election or a subsequent one, **bonds** may be issued to provide capital funding for projects again at a 66⅔ percent voter approval rate at either the May or November election. The repayment of the bonds may not exceed 30 years.