

Coalition for Public Transportation- Joint Leadership Meeting

Meeting Date: February 17, 2006

Time: Noon to 2 p.m.

Location: St. Luke's Meridian

Meeting Notes:

Co-chair Chuck Winder welcomed the group before turning the meeting over to Dan Stevens.

Overview of Previous Meetings

Co-chair Dan Stevens did a PowerPoint presentation providing background information from the Nov. 18, 2005 and Dec. 19, 2005 meetings.

Does the Public Support Public Transportation?

Matt Stoll, executive director of COMPASS, discussed studies, surveys and projects related to public transportation included in a handout provided to Coalition members. He said the 2002 Boise Smart City Initiative, a coalition of business leaders organized by former Boise Mayor Brent Coles, concluded that the rail corridor needs to be preserved, light rail is needed and that public transportation needs to be reliable and convenient. Stoll also said we need to get away from our dependence on our habit of single occupancy vehicles and that we cannot build our way out of congestion. Whether the public will support additional taxes for public transportation is uncertain.

There also was general discussion about housing densities. Stoll said the densities required for public transportation do not have to be everywhere in the Valley. Rather, he explained, there needs to be strategic nodes of higher density building.

Stoll said COMPASS research that about 5 percent of existing roadways in the region currently experience congestion. If no improvements are made to the existing transit system, that percentage will grow to 25 percent by the year 2030.

Chuck Winder said cities and counties in Idaho have to develop coalitions to support public transportation and that these coalitions need to place pressure on local legislators. Dan Stevens said after the Coalition recommendations for local funding are developed, the work needed to convince legislators has to be consistent and persistent.

Mayor Dave Bieter said the Coalition should consider forming a Political Action Committee (PAC) to approach legislators.

Transportation Investment Forum Recommendations on Public Transportation

Co-Chairman Chuck Winder presented background information about the Forum and the group's finding. He cited a section from the Forum's executive summary that stresses that public transportation must be addressed as a part of Idaho's comprehensive transportation solution for the future. He urged Coalition members to read the executive summary to learn more about the recommendations.

Review of Funding Mechanisms and How Other States Fund Transit

Kelli Fairless did a PowerPoint presentation that provided information about different ways to fund transit and how other states fund PT. Coalitions members also were provided with several handouts that contained funding information.

Wrap-up

The Coalition provided the following list of information requests:

- Research on three additional revenue sources for public transportation: toll roads, high-occupancy toll lanes and a congestion tax.

- Funding sources for other regional transit systems, such as Reno, Eugene, and Salt Lake City. Members agreed that it is not necessary to travel to different locations to gather this information.
- An analysis of the Denver public transportation system – how they got to where they are today, details about the failures experienced along the way.

Coalition members in attendance

Co-chair Chuck Winder, The Winder Co./Idaho Transportation Dept.

Co-chair Dan Stevens, Home Federal Bank

Co-chair Mayor Garret Nancolas, Caldwell

Jon Allen, The Allen Group

Chris Anton, Albertson College of Idaho

Dick Armstrong (for Ray Flachbart), Blue Cross of Idaho

Matt Beebe, Canyon County

Chad Bell, City of Star

John Betchel, Mayor, City of Wilder

Dave Bieter, Mayor, City of Boise

Dave Bivens, ACHD

Diane Brown, Caldwell Chamber of Commerce

Bob Bruce, CH2M Hill

Tom Dale, Mayor, City of Nampa

Marje Dean-Ellmaker, Mayor, City of Notus

Ralph Gant, Canyon County Highway Districts

Dean Gunderson, Ada County

Chuck Hedemark, Capital City Development Corporation

Dale Higer, Stoel Rives

George Iliff, Colliers International

Lori Jones, Meridian Chamber of Commerce

Jerome Mapp, VRT Ways and Means Committee

Rob Miller, Hewlett-Packard

Garret Nancolas, Mayor, City of Caldwell

Joel Pearsall, NNU

Eric Shannon, ITD

Marge Watson, Mayor, City of Parma

Rick Yzaguirre, Ada County

Ex-officio members in attendance:

Resource Group members in attendance

Mark Carnopis, Valley Regional Transit

Kelli Fairless, Valley Regional Transit

Jon Barrett, Idaho Smart Growth

Steve Purvis, City of Boise

Matt Stoll, Compass

Others in attendance

Nancy Vannorsdel, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce

John Cunningham, COMPASS

Marty Montgomery, ITD

**Next meeting: March 10, 2006, noon to 2 p.m.,
Boise Chamber Conference Center (basement)**