

## The Coalition for Regional Public Transportation



The goal of the Coalition for Regional Public Transportation is to develop local funding options for regional public transportation with the leadership of Valley Regional Transit, enlist support from companies, business leaders, chambers of commerce, legislators and other interested community organizations and achieve passage of state legislation.

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### Coalition approves final report and recommendations

The Coalition for Regional Public Transportation approved a final report and recommendations at its last meeting, held Oct. 27 at the St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center.

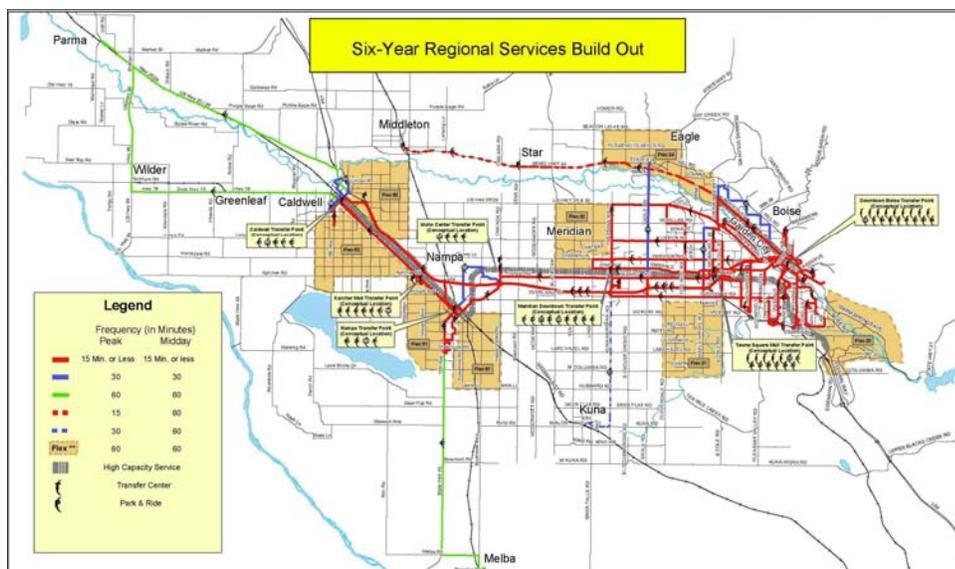
A draft copy of the report is available on the Valley Regional Transit website: [www.valleyregionaltransit.org](http://www.valleyregionaltransit.org). Click on the "Transit Coalition" link on the home page. The website also offers a lot of information about the Coalition's efforts.

Coalition Resource Group members have started the final editing of the report. Coalition members have until November 17 to offer suggestions and changes to the document. Those suggestions can be sent to: [mcarnopis@valleyregionaltransit.org](mailto:mcarnopis@valleyregionaltransit.org).

The goals of the Coalition, which was formed in fall 2005, were to:

- Develop local funding options for regional public transportation with the leadership of Valley Regional Transit, the regional public transportation authority for Ada and Canyon counties;
- Enlist support from communities, business leaders, chambers of commerce, legislators and other interested community organizations;
- Achieve passage of state legisla-

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### Facts about the VRT service expansion plan

The Valley Regional Transit (VRT) Board in September approved a six-year plan that would boost transit services in Ada and Canyon counties by about 500 percent.

This approval was important because of a requirement included in the final recommendations of the Coalition for Regional Public Transportation: a regional public transportation authority must have an approved regional transit plan before it can ask local voters to approve a local option sales tax for public transportation.

Currently VRT oversees fixed-line service in Boise, Garden City, Nampa and Caldwell and three intercounty routes that provide service between Caldwell, Nampa, Meridian and Boise.

The transit plan approved by the VRT Board is the high-capacity option included in the Regional Operations

and Capitol Improvement Plan. The approved plan, now called Treasure Valley in Transit, would:

- Provide bus service to all cities in Ada and Canyon counties. The Canyon County cities of Notus, Parma, Wilder, Greenleaf, and Melba would receive service that connects to the Caldwell system.
- Provide more frequent bus service (every 15 minutes in most cases) and set up eight flex routes - two each in Caldwell, Nampa and Boise, and one each in Eagle and Meridian. Flex routes use smaller vehicles to provide transit to a large area whose development pattern is not conducive to fixed-line service.
- Provide for preliminary planning of the utilization of the rail corridor between Caldwell and Boise for some type of high capacity transit service.

## The Coalition for Regional Public Transportation

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tion allowing for ballot referendums on a dedicated source of funding for public transportation.

Proposed legislation has been drafted that is based on the Coalition's recommendations. That legislation is expected to be introduced during the 2007 Legislative session.

State legislators attending the Coalition meeting offered suggestions to improve the final report. Local legislators in attendance were state Reps. Stan Bastian, Carlos Bilboa, Max Black, Darrell Bolz, Jana Kemp, Nicole LeFavour, and Mark Snodgrass, and state Sens. Kate Kelly, John McGee, and Curt McKenzie.

## Upcoming Presentations

- » **Friday, Nov. 3, 9:30 a.m.**, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, VRT staff
- » **Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7:30 a.m.**, Nampa Chamber of Commerce Business and Breakfast Roundtable, VRT staff
- » **Thursday, Nov. 9, 9:30 a.m.** Idaho Association of Highway Districts Annual Conventions, VRT staff
- » **Monday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.**, Star Lions Club, VRT staff
- » **Friday, Dec. 1, 7:30 a.m.**, Associated General Contractors, Chuck Winder
- » **Thursday, Jan. 18, 2006, noon**, Kuna Chamber of Commerce, VRT staff

## List of Supporters of the Coalition recommendations

The following is an updated list of organizations, businesses and governing bodies that have gone on record in support of the Coalition recommendations (those names in boldface are new supporters since the September listing):

- » Ada County Commission
- » Albertson College of Idaho
- » Amalgamated Sugar Co.
- » Association of Idaho Cities
- » Blue Cross of Idaho
- » Boise Cascade, LLC
- » Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce

- » **Boise School District**
- » Capital City Development Corporation (CCDC)
- » CH2M Hill
- » City of Boise
- » City of Eagle
- » City of Garden City
- » City of Greenleaf
- » **City of Melba**
- » **City of Meridian**
- » **City of Nampa**
- » City of Parma
- » Colliers International
- » Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc.
- » Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS)
- » **Downtown Boise**

### Association

- » Farmers & Merchants State Bank
- » Givens Pursley, LLP
- » HDR, Inc.
- » Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley, LLP
- » Hewlett-Packard Company
- » Home Federal Bank
- » **Idaho Association of Counties**
- » Idaho Smart Growth
- » Key Bank of Idaho
- » Living Independence Network Corporation
- » Meadow Gold Dairy
- » Meridian Chamber of Commerce
- » Meridian Development Corporation
- » **MotivePower, Inc.**
- » **National Federation for the Blind of Idaho**
- » **Northwest Nazarene University**
- » Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
- » State Independent Living Council
- » United Heritage
- » **U.S. Bank**
- » Valley Regional Transit
- » Washington Trust Bank
- » **West Valley Medical Center**

This monthly newsletter is designed to provide information about the local activities of the Coalition for Regional Public Transportation and transit issues in the region.

The Coalition has completed work on a recommendation for a local funding source for public transportation. A main focus now is to educate Treasure Valley residents and build support. If you have suggestions for story ideas, or want to help spread the word about the importance a vibrant and comprehensive public transportation system will play in the development of a successful regional transportation network, send an e-mail to: [mcarnopis@valleyregionaltransit.org](mailto:mcarnopis@valleyregionaltransit.org).