

COMPASS seeks community input on I-84 widening

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Traffic travels on Interstate 84 near the Midland Boulevard exit in Nampa on March 29, 2017.
Chris Bronson/IPT

NAMPA — The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is asking for input on widening Interstate-84 in Canyon County, according to a press release.

COMPASS will be accepting public comments on several projects on I-84 through Jan. 23. Learn more and submit comments at compassidaho.org or at the COMPASS office at 700 Second St. Suite 200 in Meridian. Direct questions to info@compassidaho.org or 208-855-2558.

In April 2017, COMPASS asked for public feedback on a project to widen I-84 within Nampa. COMPASS received over 800 comments — 85 percent in favor of the widening project. Now COMPASS is asking for feedback regarding continuing that widening to Caldwell.

Widening I-84 in Canyon County was identified as the No. 1 unfunded priority in Communities in Motion 2040 — the regional long-range transportation plan for Ada and Canyon counties. Following public comment, the plan was amended in June to add funding for the eastern portion of the corridor.

On Dec. 14, the Idaho Transportation Board recommended additional funding to extend improvements west to the city of Caldwell. The board's recommendation is to allocate the remainder of the GARVEE (Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle) bonding authority and various sources of state and federal funds to continue improvements to the I-84 corridor between Caldwell and Nampa.

In the same Dec. 14 meeting, the board made a recommendation to allocate \$6 million in state funds for preliminary engineering on the extension of State Highway 16 between I-84 and US-20/26. The remaining design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction is currently unfunded, with previous estimates placing construction costs at approximately \$400 million.

In addition, Valley Regional Transit is proposing to develop a transit-oriented development in Nampa. Currently, only design of the project is funded at \$310,000. Construction costs will be determined through the design phase and funded later.