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**Public Transportation
Part Of The Mix**


Forum On
Transportation



Mary Barker, Executive Director of the COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION OF IDAHO (CTAI) was introduced. She represents the Idaho Public Transit Providers.

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It's About Options



- Fixed Route Buses
- Dial – A – Ride Service
- Vanpools
- Carpools
- Biking
- Walking

Public Transit is about options for other transportation besides a personal vehicle.

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It Benefits Everyone



- Decreases need for road repair
- Decreases need for new roads
- Decreases traffic congestion
- Decreases air pollution
- Increases mobility for everyone
- Meets needs of those who can't drive

Public transit benefits everyone.

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Part Of The Mix



It is a necessary part of the mix of a healthy transportation infrastructure.

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Ideal System



BUS ROUTE 148

| Smith at SW Lander | Allen at 44th Av SW | 85th at SW Orchard | Frequency |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|

| | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| 4:55am | 5:05am | 5:14am | |
| 5:18am | 5:28am | 5:37am | 23 minutes |
| 5:47am | 5:57am | 6:06am | 29 minutes |
| 6:17am | 6:28am | 6:37am | 30 minutes |
| 6:47am | 6:58am | 7:08am | 30 minutes |
| 7:16am | 7:27am | 7:37am | 29 minutes |
| 7:46am | 7:57am | 8:08am | 30 minutes |

An ideal bus system is regular in its schedules and convenient for the majority of riders.

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Specific Needs



Replacing the old



Idaho's Public Transit providers have real needs. Pocatello's shop is over 60 years old.

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Specific Needs



Building the new



Lewiston needs a fenced parking area and Ada/Canyon counties need new buildings.

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Faster Than The Nation



| | Idaho | USA |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Population, percent change 2000 to 2003 | 5.60% | 3.30% |
| Population, percent change 1990 to 2000 | 28.50% | 13.10% |

US Census Bureau

Idaho's population growth continues to be faster than the nation.

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Population Doubles



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Baby Boomers



"While it has been found that 89 percent of baby boomers want to age in place in their own homes and communities, many communities are presently ill equipped to meet the needs of older adults."

Sandy Merharwood
 Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

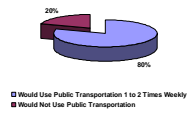
Mary noted that by 2030 more than 25% of our population will be over the age of 65.

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Support On The Rise



Ada/Canyon County residents will ride



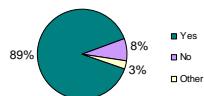
A recent survey revealed that support for Public Transit is on the rise. Twenty percent (20%) of Ada/Canyon County residents stated that they would ride 1-2 times weekly.

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In Small Communities Too




McCall residents say "Yes"



McCall residents responded that 89% would ride.


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No Dedicated State Funding 

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| <i>Alabama</i> | <i>Mississippi</i> |
| <i>Colorado</i> | <i>New Mexico</i> |
| <i>Hawaii</i> | <i>Utah</i> |
| <i>Idaho</i> | |

Unfortunately, Idaho has no dedicated state funding and no provisions for local funding.

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2004 Interim Committee 

Recommendations for Public Transportation

1. The committee unanimously approved the concept of codifying a statewide public transportation policy, placing responsibility for implementation with the Idaho Transportation Board. The purpose of the policy would be to ensure statewide coordination of services while maintaining control at the local level. A draft proposal RSML1291 provided a starting point for the concept, but the document itself was not endorsed.
2. The committee unanimously approved a motion to support draft legislation RSML1290, with specified adjustments, authorizing the Legislative Council to create an interim committee whose charge would be to develop a master plan for long-range planning of transportation funding and infrastructure needs to accommodate expected growth and transportation needs through the year 2050. Minimal adjustments to the draft proposal would address corridor preservation, right-of-way acquisition, and clarify funding language.

A Legislative Interim Committee recommended to the Legislative Council that a statewide public transportation policy be codified; and that an interim committee develop a master plan for long-range planning of transportation funding and infrastructure needs.


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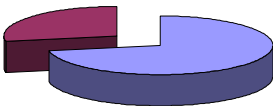
Federal Funding 

\$2 of local or state investment
=
\$8 in federal money

Mary noted that for every \$2 of local or state monies, public transit providers can usually qualify for \$8 in federal money.

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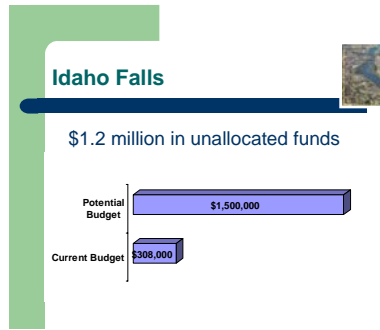
Kootenai MPO 



■ Funds Unused ■ Funds Used

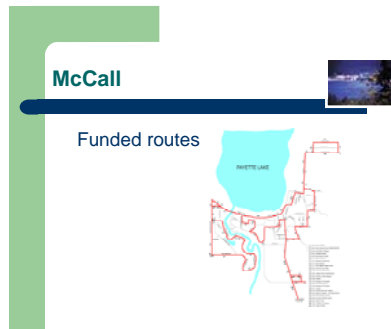
Currently, Kootenai MPO was only able to use a very small portion of the federal funds because of lack of matching funds.

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Idaho Falls is also unable to use federal funding to its fullest extent.

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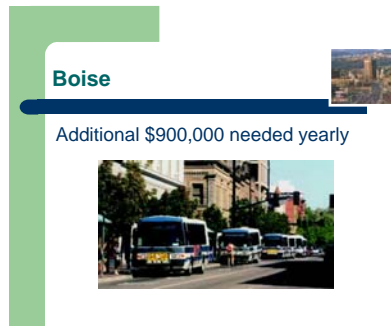
McCall has established some funded routes.

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Nampa is proposing a new Transit Center.

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Boise projects an additional \$900,000 to keep their bus system viable.

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Ketchum/Sun Valley



Local option tax funding



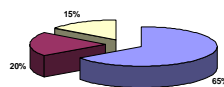
The Ketchum/Sun Valley system qualifies for a local option tax in the resort area and this has really helped them to establish their program.

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Ketchum/Sun Valley



Local funding makes a difference



Local Option Tax Chartered/Ads Federal Grants

The Local Option Tax is about 65% of their funding. Unfortunately, for other Idaho providers this is not allowed by law and so their funding remains limited.

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Federal Funding



Planning Is Difficult



One of the main problems with the lack of dedicated funding is that planning from year to year is difficult. Changes in laws and programs can eliminate whole routes and sometime service completely.

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Yes, It Works



- Benefits stores
- Benefits employers
- Benefits riders
- Benefits those who drive alone
- Benefits tax payers
- Benefits elderly and disabled

Public Transit is needed and yes, it works. Idaho can not afford to continue to ignore this part of their transportation system.

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Success In Small Towns



Our small towns need and deserve a public transit system.

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Pocatello Pilot Project



- Provides services to:
- Bannock
 - Power
 - Bingham
 - Franklin
 - Oneida

Pilot programs have proven that if the service is there, riders will use it.

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Funding Is The Key



Funding remains the key to a stable public transit program. Idaho must decide a way to fund public transportation.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to this forum today.