

Cooperatively developing a transportation plan for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in Kootenai County.



KOOTENAI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION • 221 W. FIRST, SUITE 310 • SPOKANE, WA • 1-800-698-1927

Joint SRTC/KMPO Board Meeting

KMPO and Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Spokane County, held a special joint Board Meeting in March to discuss how the result from the 2010 Census could potentially impact the two agencies.

The KMPO Board contracts with SRTC to provide day-to-day operational, administrative and planning services, and some board members were concerned the results of the 2010 Census could impact that relationship and future funding.

Representatives from the Federal Highways Administration and the U.S. Census Bureau attended the meeting to discuss the potential issues. They said that 2010 Census results show there has been increased population in both Kootenai and Spokane counties. In the eyes of FHWA, they said the two urban areas of Coeur d'Alene and Spokane are likely to be classified as one for the purposes of defining a single traffic management area. That could determine how much federal funding is allocated to each metro area, but the two organizations would not be required to merge into one. Still, there are many variables that could affect the funding in the months ahead and nothing is expected to be determined until the end of this year at the earliest. Regardless of the traffic management area designation, the U.S. Census Bureau is likely to continue looking at our region as two separate metro areas with a high level of interaction between the two.

About 70 representatives from area government agencies, both in Idaho and Washington, attended the meeting.

Public Transportation Plan Update

The KMPO Board last week approved a contract with a consulting firm to update the Kootenai County Metropolitan Area Public Transportation Plan. Transit Plus, of Colorado, will work with local subcontractors David Evans and Associates and Pac West Communications, to revamp the current plan, taking into consideration an increase in population and employment in Kootenai County. These increases have resulted in increased demand for transit service, both in the urbanized and rural areas of the county.

It is the responsibility of local jurisdictions to cooperatively plan for future transportation needs over the next twenty years through KMPO. Transit Plus will help in this process by researching, analyzing, providing recommendations, and preparing an update to the current plan.

Work on updating the plan is expected to begin in early May.



IPH Update

Phase 2 of the Inland Pacific Hub (IPH) project is moving ahead. IPH is a project to establish the Inland Pacific Region as a multi-modal global gateway to increase domestic and international commerce. It's a partnership established by and comprised of public and private sector representatives from Idaho and Washington.

Phase 2 of the project is aimed at identifying and recommending actions, strategies and programs that can be implemented to strengthen the competitive position of the IPH region, domestically and globally. Consulting firm HDR, Inc. has been hired to manage this phase of the project and is working to develop a public and stakeholder outreach plan, identify data needs and plan for a stakeholder workshop.

Public meetings will be held as part of Phase 2 of the IPH, so check the project website at www.inlandpacifichub.org periodically for updated information.

Check out www.kmpo.net for all KMPO's latest activities

Public Transportation Roundtable Meeting April 27

KMPO's Public Transportation Roundtable meets on Wednesday, April 27 from 1-2:30 p.m. for the group's quarterly meeting.

The purpose of the Roundtable is to promote coordinated planning and development of public transportation services within and through Kootenai County.

This month's agenda includes a discussion on local transportation funding and how to provide paratransit service to former users of North Idaho Community Express/Kootenai Area Transit System. Kootenai Medical Center has taken over providing rides for medical appointments, but an additional service is needed for those who don't qualify or need transportation to other destinations.

The Roundtable agenda will be posted soon at www.KMPO.net. Roundtable meetings are open to the public so feel free to attend.



May Is Bike to Work Month

May is Bike to Work Month across the country and the Kootenai County Bike to Work Committee has some big events planned, in conjunction with the Coeur d'Alene Pedestrian and Bike Committee.

While you're encouraged to ride your bike every day in the month of May, Bike to Work Week will be observed May 16-21. Festivities include a kick-off ride, a moonlight ride, a movie and wine tasting night, a team bicycle event consisting of a series of challenges, and an event to wrap-up and celebrate the success of the week with prizes and recognition for participants. There will also be a Corporate Challenge, so recruit your co-workers and get your company team together.

All area bike shops will give free bicycle check-ups starting May 1 and continuing through Bike to Work Week.

For more information, go to the Parks Department page on the City of Coeur d'Alene website at www.cdavid.org. The page includes a downloadable Bike to Work Week poster, information on how to register for the Corporate Challenge, a tracking sheet to mark how many miles you ride, and details on all the events mentioned above.



Check out the KMPO Blog

One way to keep up with what KMPO is up to is to check our blog at <http://kmpo.blogspot.com/>. The blog is generally updated daily to keep you up-to-date on what is happening in transportation, locally, and nationally.

Recent posts on the blog include updates on Coeur d'Alene's Sherman Avenue water main project, potential new sources to fund our transportation system in the future, and getting traffic updates from Mapquest.

If you have any issues you would like to see addressed on the blog or applicable articles, please email them to kmpo@kmpo.net.

Census Data Available

If you're interested in results from the 2010 Census, KMPO has Census data posted on our website regarding population, race, age, and housing units for both Kootenai County and Census Places (a concentration of population having a name, being locally recognized, and not part of any other place) within Kootenai County.

That data can be viewed at www.KMPO.net. There is a link on the home page.