

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

### SH 97 Final Draft Report Available

The final draft report of the State Highway 97 Corridor Study/Route Development Plan is available and posted on our website at [www.kmpo.net](http://www.kmpo.net).

The study looked at and evaluated existing and future conditions, identified potential improvements, examined alternate routes and modes of transportation, and prepared a financial analysis of identified improvements for State Highway 97, on the east side of Coeur d'Alene Lake.

The report will go to the KCATT committee for review in April, and if acceptable, be forwarded to the KMPO Board for approval. From there, the report and recommendations go to the Idaho Transportation Department for consideration.

### Kootenai County Construction Map Available Online

If you're wondering what areas to avoid this summer so as not to get stuck in construction traffic, we have just updated the Kootenai Area Construction Map and posted it on the KMPO website.

The map shows major projects that will impact traffic and includes information such as when construction starts and stops on each project, a description of the work to be done, and the geographic limits to each project.

You can find the map at [www.kmpo.net](http://www.kmpo.net).

### Non-Motorized Plan Workshop

KMPO is once again asking for your help to develop a region-wide Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. Last winter we asked for input through an online survey to identify issues and barriers to walking and biking in Kootenai County.

Your survey answers have been compiled and we're now preparing to host a public workshop to identify regional priorities and opportunities for improving biking, walking, and other forms of non-motorized transportation.

The workshop is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 19 from 6-8 p.m. at the Trailhead Pavilion in O'emiln Park, 12201 W. Parkway Dr., Post Falls, ID.**

Feedback received at the workshop will help to develop a plan that will identify policies, goals, and projects and possibly opportunities to provide facilities like pathways, sidewalks, and bike parking.

If you would like to attend the workshop, please RSVP to [kmpo@kmpo.net](mailto:kmpo@kmpo.net) or 1-800-698-1927.



### Potential Sites Identified for Transit Center

The KMPO Transit Center Location Study is at the stage of narrowing down the long list of potential sites for a proposed transit center in Kootenai County. KMPO staff and consultants have met with developers, property owners, real estate professionals, and local agencies to develop the list of potential sites. The next step is to apply the evaluation criteria for the list of sites in order to conduct a deeper analysis of a few preferred locations.

The purpose of the study is to identify a location for an intermodal facility to be used by Citylink, Greyhound, KATS, and other public transportation providers. The transit center would serve as a park and ride for bus riders and a starting point for pedestrians and bicyclists using area trails.

So far, it looks like the most ideal location for the center is in the vicinity of Interstate 90 and Ramsey Road. The study is scheduled to be complete by the end of July. One preferred site and two alternate sites will be identified in the final report.

Check out [www.kmpo.net](http://www.kmpo.net) for all KMPO's latest activities

## Public Transportation Roundtable Quarterly Meeting

KMPO's Public Transportation Roundtable group met in April to discuss a variety of issues, including placing benches at Citylink bus stops, the latest on ARRA stimulus funds, and the possibility of forming a regional public transportation authority (RPTA).

A RPTA is a governmental agency created by ballot initiative to address public transportation issues. The advantage to forming a RPTA is that it focuses solely on public transportation issues, resulting in better coordination of services, closer monitoring of grant programs, and a unified effort to secure federal and local funding. So far, there has been little movement on this effort but talks are still underway.

Earlier this spring, KMPO's urbanized area received about \$1.3 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA or stimulus) funding. KMPO worked with area transportation agencies to develop a list of projects to allocate this money to. That list can be found at [www.kmpo.net](http://www.kmpo.net). There is a link to it on the home page.

Local businesses or individuals who would like to have their name on a bus bench located at a Citylink bus stop can now purchase 5-year 'sponsorships' of the benches. The 'Benches for Bus Stops Committee' says they've had lots of interest from companies and organizations interested in sponsoring benches. Six individuals or companies have already given verbal commitments and the committee is working toward about 14 more. If you're interested in sponsoring a bench, give Committee Chair Craig Wilcox a call at (208) 818-2256 for more information.

The Public Transportation Roundtable meets again in July.

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## US95 Access Management Study Wrapped Up

The US95 Access Management Study is complete and the Final report is posted on the KMPO website at [www.kmpo.net](http://www.kmpo.net). There is a link to it from the home page.

The study looked at US95 from Interstate 90 to Wyoming Avenue and evaluated low-cost strategies to address intersection safety and congestion problems.

Findings and recommendations from the study were approved by the KMPO Board on February 5 and forwarded to the Idaho Transportation Board. The Idaho Transportation Board approved them on February 19.

The next step is for the individual agencies involved to come up with money to fund the recommended improvements. One possible way to obtain funding is through a 2010 Appropriations Request submitted to the Federal Highway Administration for \$7 million to construct the entire menu of projects. We'll keep you updated on the progress of that request.

## KMPO Model Update

The KMPO 2005 Base Travel Demand Forecasting Model has recently been updated and re-calibrated to the 2007 KMPO base model. This update reflects the most current 2007 traffic conditions and enhancements to the network. It was calibrated by KMPO's model consultant, HDR, in early April.

The model is used as a method of forecasting how society will use the transportation system now and in the future. Modeling is a series of equations entered into a computer program, used to represent how travel choices are made.

Modeling analysis explores various modes of travel including bus, auto, and carpool. Modeling considers the demand on the transportation system and assists the public, community leaders, and partner agencies in making transportation decisions and investments.

## Citylink Honored With FTA Award

Congratulations to Citylink. The public transportation provider has been selected as a recipient of the 2008 Federal Transit Administration Annual Award for Success in Enhancing Ridership.

The award recognizes FTA-funded public transportation providers that innovatively boost public ridership. Citylink was selected based on their excellent ridership gains.