



ADA COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS'
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August 28, 2009

Dear TIGER Grant Review Committee:

The Board of Ada County Commissioners is submitting this letter to express our views on the Valley Regional Transit East/West Commute Corridors Alternative Transportation Package project. **We do not support the allocation of public funds to the Boise Downtown Circulator.** We believe the Circulator is a waste of public funds that will serve little or no regional public purpose. With that exception, we support the funding requests in the remainder of the document.

The remainder of the comprehensive project will provide the infrastructure and capital improvements needed to meet current transit demands in our region and position our transit service to handle future growth. The service additions will test demand along current gaps in our east/west commute corridors and the high capacity corridor study will lay the ground work for a system to meet future needs.

The Treasure Valley is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. The growth pattern has a majority of the housing expansion in the neighborhoods and cities west of Boise, the employment center. This growth pattern results in a significant east/west daily commute along limited roadway corridors. In addition to this growing traffic problem, the Treasure Valley is bordering on air quality non-attainment.

ARRA funding of these capital and service projects will allow Ada County and the other participating jurisdictions in our region to save and pool local matching funds to add new bus service and increase frequencies on existing bus service in the future. Without these ARRA funds, it would take nearly 10 years for our region to complete these projects and there would be very limited resources to increase service.

To reiterate, the Board of Ada County Commissioners does not support the use of public funds for a Boise Downtown Circulator but does support the rest of the Valley Regional Transit East/West Commute Corridors Alternative Transportation Package project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Fred Tilman in black ink.

Fred Tilman, Chairman

Handwritten signature of Sharon M. Ullman in black ink.

Sharon M. Ullman, Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Rick Yzaguirre in black ink.

Rick Yzaguirre, Commissioner