



CommunityViz Case Study

Communities in Motion 2040

Scenario Planning for the first year of the LRTP update

Location: Boise, ID

Partners: Placeways, Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS), EnviroIssues

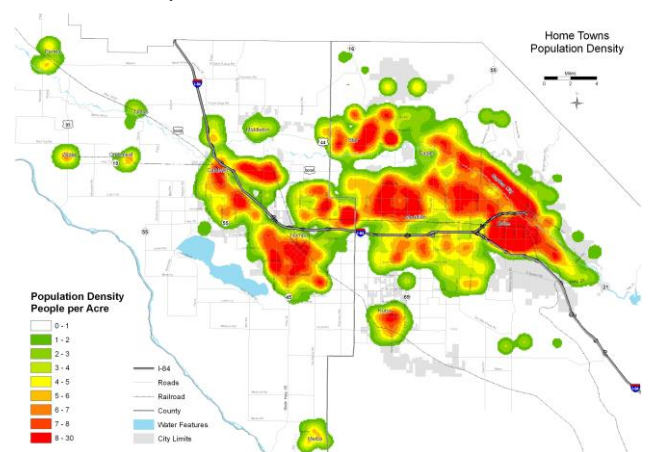
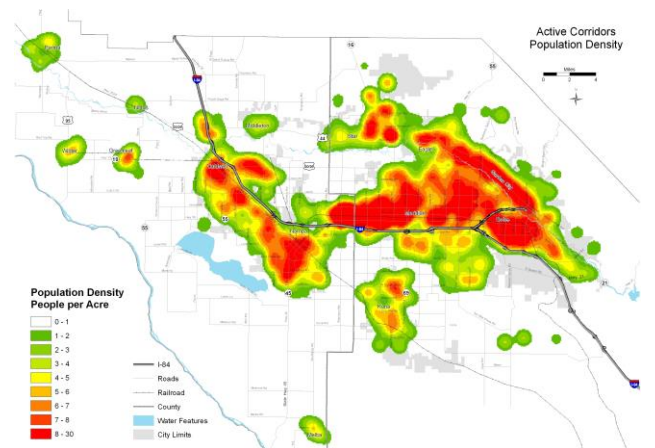
Context: The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Ada and Canyon Counties, Idaho sometimes called the “Treasure Valley”. The area is the most populous in the state, and has experienced rapid growth since 2000 which, along with other factors, has affected housing markets and travel habits. As part of the update to the regional long range transportation plan (LRTP), *Communities in Motion*, COMPASS sought consulting services to create and manage a scenario planning process in the hopes of creating a preferred growth scenario for the future of the region.

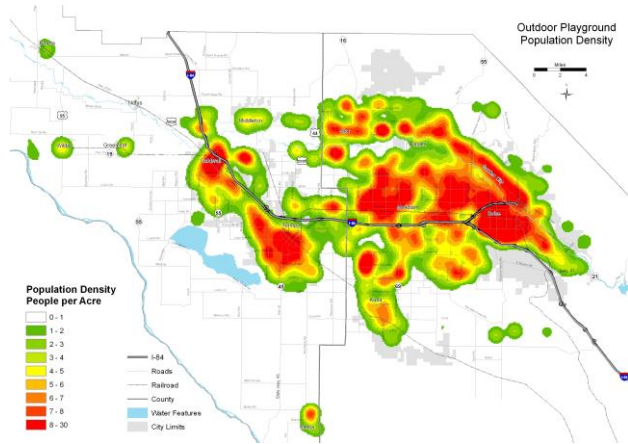
As a result COMPASS engaged Placeways and its subconsultant EnviroIssues to assist with scenario planning for the update to its regional long range transportation plan (LRTP), called *Communities in Motion 2040*. Following FHWA’s scenario planning process, the 12-month project was designed to produce a “preferred growth scenario” for use in the LRTP. In addition to land use and transportation, the study also addressed economic development, health, and other elements of HUD’s Livability Principles.

Project Description:

Placeways’ first phase included comprehensive background research and working with COMPASS to develop a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis for the region. In parallel, Placeways developed a comprehensive GIS data set and built initial scenarios using CommunityViz software. The initial scenarios served as the starting point for a series of three one-day workshops facilitated by EnviroIssues and Placeways in which a total of 170 participants reviewed ideas, were polled on priorities and strategies, and broke into a total of 27 small teams to work on scenarios of their own. The scenario creation was accomplished with live CommunityViz software projected onto tables and infrared pens used for sketching and painting (sometimes called “geodesign”).

Placeways did extensive analysis on the workshop results and distilled 4 theme-centered scenarios for use in outreach and engagement with the general public (Active Corridors, Hometowns, Outdoor Playground, and Town and Country). Placeways also conducted a broad-scale analysis of the 16 locally adopted comprehensive plan documents, merging results of land use and capacity to the regional level. To understand the implementation constraints, Placeways performed a detailed build-out analysis based on a careful review of local comprehensive land use plans (“comp plans”) including

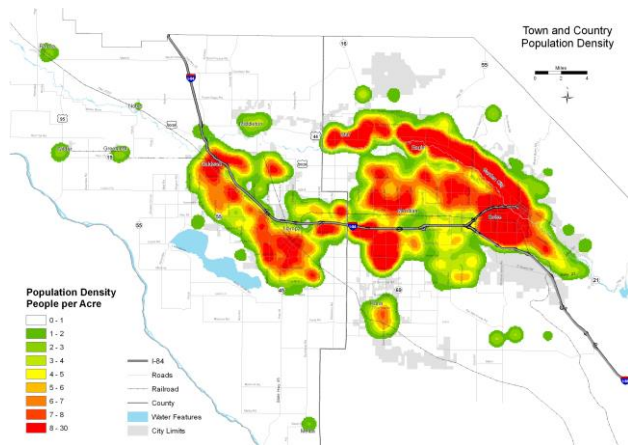




overlay districts, entitlements, special planning areas, and other planning considerations. We also looked at stable neighborhoods where existing development is unlikely to change during the planning period (through 2040), realistic conversation potential, and committed-but-not-yet-built development.

To represent the public-supported vision, we created a “raw” scenario by blending Active Corridors and Outdoor Playground. We also created a development suitability map based on a weighted overlay analysis of the public’s highest planning priorities. In most areas, local capacity

was adequate to accommodate the 2040 jobs (466,000 total) and population (1,023,000 total) recommended by the raw scenario. In some locations, however, it was necessary to move jobs or population to nearby, highly suitable locations to conform to local comp plans. A “preferred scenario” workshop was then held with local planning agencies and organizations to refine the draft scenario and, if participants were willing, allow exceptions to current comp plans to support the regional vision. Afterwards, local agencies were given time to review and provide comments regarding local details.



Technology and Partners: Placeways led the consulting team and facilitated the scenario planning process using CommunityViz software. EnviroIssues was the subconsultant on the project and worked on public outreach and facilitation. Many others also contributed to the work, including members of the CIM 2040 Leadership Tea, CIM 2040 Planning Team and the participants in the scenario development workshops.

Outcome: The resulting preferred scenario was adopted and is being used in the regional transportation plan to guide transportation decisions.

KEY LINKS
 COMPASS
<http://www.compassidaho.org>
 Placeways LLC
[http:// placeways.com](http://placeways.com)
 EnviroIssues
www.enviroissues.com