



About the Blueprint

The Blueprint for Good Growth is a guide for coordinating future growth decisions throughout Ada County. The Blueprint will better integrate land use and transportation planning. Its goal is to achieve and maintain the quality of life in Ada County that will inspire today's residents to stay and will promote the healthy economy required to sustain our area.

The Blueprint coordinates growth and development patterns to support the efficient delivery of services – bridging the gap between land use and transportation planning. The Blueprint will spur changes in local comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances and policy manuals to promote desired development patterns.



Expected Outcomes

The Consortium of Ada County, its cities, Ada County Highway District and Idaho Transportation Department expects the Blueprint to have a variety of outcomes, through goals, policies, and strategies that will guide the future.

Growth Coordination

The Blueprint establishes the framework for managing growth in Ada County through coordinated decisions that are consistent with the project's guiding principles. A growth tiers map identifies areas with different development opportunities and policies. The objectives and policies identify the targeted proportion of growth to occur in each tier and conditions applicable to development in each tier. The growth tiers include:

- Activity Centers,
- Areas of Impact,
- Cities,
- Planned Communities,
- Public Lands,
- Transit Corridors, and
- Rural Tier.

Natural Resources

This plan supports the retention of open space for a wide variety of uses and the responsible use of natural resources that results in the protection of the environmental and aesthetic value of our land, air and water. While efforts to protect air quality will require regional solutions, local land use and transportation decisions could significantly reduce air pollutant generation from automobiles.

Transportation

In addition to establishing policies for road corridor preservation, the Blueprint addresses transit corridor preservation and the incorporation of non-motorized (e.g., bike/pedestrian) transportation facilities and services into the overall transportation system. Other key transportation policies address connectivity, streetscape, traffic calming techniques, interconnectivity and other issues identified in this Plan.

Utilities

Coordination of utilities with growth and development decisions is an objective that will be difficult to achieve due to the large number of service providers. Utilities are provided within Ada County through a collection of municipal, public and private service providers. Despite the challenges created by the fragmented service provision, this plan strongly supports continued efforts to share information and coordinate capital and service provision plans.

Public Schools

Three school districts provide public school facilities and services in Ada County. Each of these districts faces unique growth related challenges, the outcome of which will have a dramatic impact on the quality of life in Ada County. The most significant challenge faced by local school districts is the funding of the capital facilities needed to serve anticipated growth.

Blueprint Products

Aside from addressing these major issues, the Blueprint outlines recommendations to implement the policies established to address each goal. These strategies include:

- Tiers Map. Local governments should review zoning maps and zoning district requirements to ensure that they are consistent with and promote the implementation of Blueprint policies.
- Model Regulations.
- Intergovernmental Agreements
- Coordination with Other Agencies
- Educational Initiatives



Status Report

The Blueprint's Steering Committee is working to finalize policy recommendations for the project. These recommendations include:

- Rural development should be limited to 5 percent of total county growth
- The cities and county should adjust their development procedures to facilitate desired development patterns
- Planned communities must be consistent with adopted plans, should be encouraged within cities and areas of impact, and should pay the full cost for public facilities and services.
- Adequate water, wastewater, transportation, stormwater management, fire protection, and school capacity should be required as a condition for new development.

After Blueprint policies are finalized, work will continue to develop implementation models for each city and Ada County, including:

- Amendments to Comprehensive Plans;
- Adequate public facilities requirements; and
- Other ordinances to help implement Blueprint policies.



For More Information

Additional information about the Blueprint can be found on the project website:

www.blueprintforgoodgrowth.com

The website also has a contact form where you can request additional information, ask questions, or provide your feedback.