



# NEWS GOOD GROWTH

Spring 2014

## IDAHO SMART GROWTH and 2013 Annual Report

Pedestrians of all sizes enjoy Boise's 8th Street.

## Idaho Smart Growth moving forward

Last summer Idaho Smart Growth retreated into the hills and took a good long look at where we've been and where we might go. In a strategic planning process, the first in five years, ISG's board and staff crafted a plan that builds on the work of the past 16 years and guides the organization's efforts for the next few years to come.

In the strategic plan we affirm our organizational purpose:

*Idaho Smart Growth is the only statewide organization working in the area where land use, transportation and community overlap. This includes promoting transportation and housing choices; encouraging compact, efficient development; conserving resources and open space; and fostering community collaboration and identity. We do this through education, advocacy and professional assistance. We work primarily with government agencies, landowners and developers, planners and designers, neighborhoods and the general public.*

With this unified vision of who we are, we then narrowed the range of possible focus areas for 2014 to a manageable three:

**1. Organizational stability and capacity-building.** Idaho Smart Growth is the recognized leader in promoting and celebrating the smart growth movement and positive impacts of good growth and development, and this recognition will grow.

**2. Moving Idaho Forward.** ISG will expand our ongoing efforts to effect transformational change in transportation policy at the state and local levels. This includes our work with Safe Routes to Schools and

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Above, Laurel York Odell guides Idaho Smart Growth board and staff members in the strategic planning session at Boise's Foothills Learning Center. Below, the Neighborhood 2 Market project helps people get comfortable with active transportation.



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complete streets programs as well as other transportation-choice advocacy. The name “Moving Idaho Forward” also describes an exciting new partnership with the Idaho Pedestrian and Bicycle Alliance and Conservation Voters of Idaho Education Fund and will include collaboration with the Sonoran Institute and others.



*Dr. Dick Jackson addresses the Creating Healthy Communities Summit in Boise.*

### 3. Healthy Communities.

ISG will build on work underway with St. Luke’s, Blue Cross, Saint Alphonsus, Urban Land Institute and other partners to strengthen cross-sector approaches to community health. One thing ISG brings to this large partnership is our convening and facilitating role, and our experience working across sectors. In the healthy communities discussion, we are recognized as a key organization working to improve community design and transportation choices with the goal of improving community health.

Our focus on healthy communities led us to play a significant part in planning and cosponsoring the recent Creating Healthy Communities Summit in Boise, including presenting in a three-part session on community design. We spent some time directly with the keynote speakers, Dr. Dick Jackson of the UCLA School of Public Health and Tyler Norris of Kaiser Permanente. During their time here we were able to introduce Dick and Tyler to other audiences, including our board, and we expect to be working with them in this field again soon.

Another new ISG project that fits into our healthy communities work is Neighborhood 2 Market, designed for those who walk or bike for recreation but are not yet comfortable making the jump to using active modes for commuting, shopping or other transportation. N2M brings people together in their own neighborhoods around the Boise region to walk or bike together to their own local Saturday farmers markets. The trips are organized with trained local leaders who can show people the rules and opportunities presented by active travel. By meeting up and traveling with a small group, people



*Erik Kingston is a Neighborhood 2 Market ride leader.*

Member Column: Russ Duke

## Healthy choices, easy choices

One of Central District Health Department’s (CDHD) strategic priorities is to improve health by increasing opportunities for physical activity and access to healthy affordable foods. Focusing on the built environment is a natural approach to create access and opportunities for people to walk and bike safely. The more people have easy, natural connections between the places where they live, work, learn and play, the healthier, more vibrant lives they lead.

Because of the striking evidence linking community design and health, CDHD has worked to learn more about how transportation and planning can impact health, and to bring the message of health to the forefront. CDHD has adopted a Smart Growth Policy, and included community planning in our Strategic Plan. CDHD staff provide consultation and technical assistance on comprehensive plans and ordinances to communities throughout the region.

CDHD’s ongoing mission is to support healthy people in healthy communities through partnerships with Idaho Smart Growth and other lead agencies to make the healthy choice the easy choice through community design.



*Russ Duke is an ISG member and director of Idaho’s Central District Health Department.*

gain skills and confidence, and become part of a network. Local area bike and walking shops provide discount coupons to participants, and having farmers markets as the destinations encourages healthy food and economic choices as well as healthy transportation choices.





## 2013 Highlights

It was a busy year! We had a transition at the executive director position with a five-month national search, followed by a new strategic plan and a couple of new programs. Here are highlights from the year.

**Started “Moving Idaho Forward”** transportation policy change program in partnership with Idaho Pedestrian and Bicycle Alliance and Conservation Voters of Idaho Education Fund.

**ISG completed strategic planning process,** retreat and plan; affirmed core strategies to be 1) convening and facilitating for community-specific solutions; 2) leading and participating in advocacy and policy efforts in land use and transportation; 3) building relationships to influence growth and development; 4) providing technical assistance in smart and sustainable growth.

**Launched “Neighborhood 2 Market”** valleywide event to encourage biking and walking for transportation.

**Cosponsor/planer/presenter of “Creating Healthy Communities”** cross-sector summit and related program

(summit held in early 2014).

**Presented at two national conferences:** on rural Idaho safe routes at the Safe Routes to School National Conference, and on community engagement (with Jeremy Grandstaff) at the Walking Summit. Presented on com-

plete streets walking audits and areas of impact at APA-Idaho annual conference.

**Completed “The Toolbox for Bicyclists and Pedestrian Counts”** for ITD and piloted the program with three communities.

**Successfully advocated for bicycle and pedestrian funding** through full funding of the Community Choices for Idaho



*Idaho Smart Growth board and staff at the strategic planning retreat.*

program (funded through the Transportation Alternatives program in MAP-21) with our partners. Encouraged and assisted community applications for Safe Routes to School Action Plans through the CC4I

program. Eighteen of the 21 communities we’ve worked with were successful in the first round of applications; 22 of 37 were successful in the second round.

**Presented “Smart Growth 101” and other lectures** to Boise State University planning and environmental studies classes; Boise Sesquicentennial program; Idaho Power’s lunch lecture series.

**Participated in emerging “Bright Green Boise” collaborative** of nonprofit organizations working to make Boise more sustainable; presented “Downtown is the Greenest Place to Live” at “Ten Big Ideas,” an Ignite-style event organized by Conservation Voters of Idaho attended by 400; partnered with US Green Building Council Idaho Chapter and others on master and environmen-

tal planning for Boise’s Central Addition.

**Participated in Sandpoint community review** for economic and sustainable development strategies.

**Participated in the first Idaho Gives nonprofit online giving day and Idaho Green Fest** celebration. Produced quarterly members breakfast events, a holiday reception for major donors and friends, and the annual Grow Smart Awards.

**Idaho Smart Growth Staff:**  
*Scot Oliver, Executive Director*  
*Elaine Clegg, Program Coordinator*  
*Deanna Smith, Program Coordinator*  
*Andrea Bogle, Administrator*



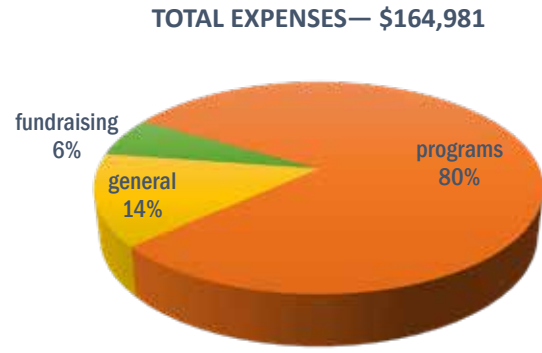
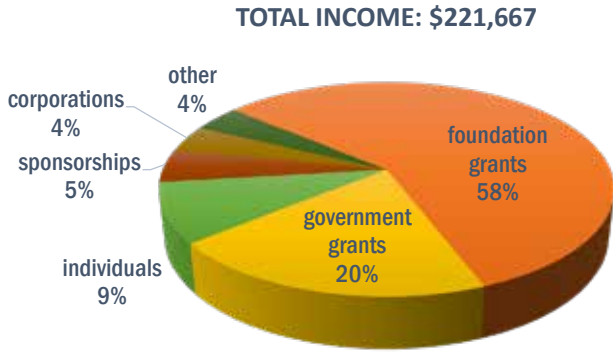
*Volunteer Kyle Prewitt at the Idaho Green Fest.*

## 2013 Volunteers

We couldn’t do it without you all! Sorry if we missed getting you on the list. Thanks.

- Stacey Alexander*
- Kathryn AlMBERG*
- Gracie Bing*
- Matt Blandford*
- Rocky Bogert*
- Sandy Carter*
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- Brent Marchbanks*
- Dan Narsavage*
- Benjamin Nelson*
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- Kyle Prewitt*
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- Nate Rioux*
- LaRita & Gene Schandorff*
- Bob Shephard*
- Max Stein*
- Jordan Swain*
- Anne Wescott*
- Angela Wickham*
- Bruce Wiley*

# 2013 Finances



*In our strategic plan we affirm our core strategies to be 1) convening and facilitating for community-specific solutions; 2) leading and participating in advocacy and policy efforts in land use and transportation; 3) building relationships to influence growth and development; 4) providing technical assistance in smart and sustainable growth.*

*Idaho Smart is a statewide nonprofit 501c3 organization dependent on a variety of funding sources to carry out our work. While we receive private foundation and government grants for many of our programs, we rely on the support of nearly 350 individual members and sponsors for a significant portion. Increasingly, people like you who believe in helping communities choose responsible growth and development are critical to our efforts. Individual giving allows us to respond quickly to issues as they arise in communities around the state. For more information on donating resources to Idaho Smart Growth, please contact Andrea at 208-333-8066 or [andrea@idahosmartgrowth.org](mailto:andrea@idahosmartgrowth.org).*

## Thank You!

*We are extremely grateful to all our donors. Listed here are 2013 sustaining members giving monthly and those businesses and individuals who gave \$250 and above.*

Ada County Highway District  
 Gary & Liz Allen  
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 Blue Cross of Idaho, Foundation for Health  
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 United Water Idaho  
 Anne M Wescott  
 Dan & Dana Zuckerman



*Sandpoint Farmers Market; Brenda Woodward, center, runs the market and was the Safe Routes to School coordinator.*

## Sandpoint Community Review

The Idaho Community Review collaborative partnership program provides community and economic development assistance to Idaho communities of less than 10,000. Community leaders initiate a review and select the focus areas.

ISG staff were members of the “visiting team” in two recent commu-

nity reviews, in Sandpoint in 2013 and Aberdeen in 2014. In Sandpoint we spent three days learning about issues related to sustainability through tours, meetings, listening sessions and interviews with community leaders and residents. We concluded with a public presentation of preliminary opportunities, recommendations and resources.

The city leaders were excited to learn about opportunities to integrate their budgeting decisions into a long-range business plan to ensure they have sufficient resources for the highest priorities. They were also very interested in building a better communications plan to make sure that everyone is working together and leveraging all of their resources effectively.

## Transportation Funding Crisis

America is at a crucial decision point for funding transportation. The nation’s transportation trust fund is facing insolvency. The gas tax that has supported the federal transportation program since the Eisenhower Interstate era has not been raised since 1993 while construction costs have soared, cars and trucks have gotten more efficient and driving has declined for the first time in history. As a result the tax is not producing enough revenue to cover new costs.

By September of this year every dollar of federal gas tax revenues will be needed to pay for projects already obligated by states, regions and transit agencies.

Unless Congress increases the gas tax or authorizes some other form of revenue, the federal program will be unable to fund new projects. The federal support that states and regions have been counting on for next year’s projects simply will not be there. Idaho stands to lose \$300 million next

year alone. This is money that goes directly into our economy to maintain and improve our transportation system.

Idaho Smart Growth believes that there is an opportunity to develop and support important policy positions

related to transportation investment, including more local control of the funding and better support for walking, biking and transit. We will be working with our Transportation Coalition over the next few months to refine these positions. Please watch for more information about this issue.



*Bike corral at Boise farmers market.*



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Thanks to Idaho Power for printing this report.

## GOOD GROWTH NEWS

# 2013 Grow Smart Awards

Save the date: the Grow Smart Awards program returns to McCleary Auditorium on November 13, 2014!

Smart growth is about so many things that lead to vibrant communities—walkable neighborhoods, parks and opens pace, transportation and housing choices, green building and a mix of land uses—just to name a few. One of the best ways to learn about smart growth is to see it in action, in our communities. It’s also important to come together to celebrate what makes our communities successful. For these reason, we launched the Grow Smart Awards program in 2005, to recognize projects that exemplify smart growth principles.

The 2013 Grow Smart Awards celebration took place on November 7 at the McCleary Auditorium at Saint

Alphonsus, where these awards were given: Citizen Advocacy Award to Boise River Wildlife Linkage Partnership; Commercial/Industrial Award to 10 Barrel Brew Pub; Public Policy and Planning Award to Moscow’s Legacy Crossing; Redevelopment Award to Nampa’s Lloyd Square; Transportation Award to Whitewater Park Boulevard; Charles Hummel Award to Ken Howell.

*Award recipients, above l-r, Mayor Tom Dale, Lloyd Square; Diane Bevens, Whitewater Park Boulevard; Krista Muller, Boise River Wildlife Linkage; Connie St. George, 10 Barrel Brew Pub; Ken Howell, Charles Hummel Award; Jeff Jones, Legacy Crossing. Right, Ken Howell with the Idanha Hotel, one of the buildings he has rescued in downtown Boise.*



photo credits: Andrea Bogle, Elaine Clegg, Zoe Davis, David Guioetto, Scot Oliver