The Honorable Joe Palmer, Chair  
House Transportation & Defense Committee  
Idaho State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0054

RE: S1100, amending Section 40-109 - Amends existing law to revise the definition of highways to include certain public transportation and pedestrian infrastructure.

Dear Chairman Palmer,

On behalf of the Idaho Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Idaho), I am writing to register my organization’s support regarding Senate Bill 1100, the amendment to Section 40-109 regarding the definition of “highways”.

Our organization represents more than 250 local planning officials, private-sector planners, and planning commission members statewide. We are the technicians, professionals, policy and decision makers who represent the public interest in carrying out the authorities vested with local government under Idaho’s Local Land Use Planning Act, Title 67, Chapter 65 of the Idaho Statutes, which includes the planning and development of “highways” throughout the state.

APA Idaho strongly supports the inclusion of “public transportation” and “bicycle” facilities into the definition of “highways” within Idaho. As Idaho’s population grows in number and in diversity, we have seen increased desire in some communities to plan and develop additional public transportation and bicycle facilities. This legislation provides that additional flexibility for communities (cities and highway districts) to include those items.

Just as important in including those items, this bill changes a “shall” to a “may”, again providing more flexibility in how highway districts and cities design and build their infrastructure. This minor change will ensure communities have the ability to design roadways that will meet the needs of their citizens.

We appreciate your service and would greatly appreciate your consideration of our perspective on this matter. As the professionals that will be working with elected
American Planning Association
Idaho Chapter

officials, community members and other government districts to ensure the state our communities grow in a positive way, we want to make sure there are options for designing and constructing the necessary services in a way to fit each community.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Jason Boal- AICP, CFM
APA Idaho Legislative Committee, Chair

Cc:
Honorable Representative  Terry Gestrin
Honorable Representative  Rick D. Youngblood
Honorable Representative  Sage G. Dixon
Honorable Representative  Steven C. Harris
Honorable Representative  James Holtzclaw
Honorable Representative  Jason A. Monks
Honorable Representative  Scott Syme
Honorable Representative  Megan Blanksma
Honorable Representative  Jim Addis
Honorable Representative  Dustin Manwaring
Honorable Representative  Brandon Mitchell
Honorable Representative  Doug Okuniewicz
Honorable Representative  Charlie Shepherd
Honorable Representative  John Gannon
Honorable Representative  Ilana Rubel
Honorable Representative  John McCrostie
APA Idaho Executive Board
Association of Idaho Cities
Idaho Association of Counties