

MONTHLY UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2021



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Despite the Thanksgiving holiday, this month was a full one for Idaho Policy Institute (IPI) - as you can read about inside this update. In addition to our work together, IPI team members also took time this month to engage in random acts of kindness. From raking up a neighbor's leaves (Matthew May) to helping a young basketball fan pay for his concessions (Gabe Osterhout) we identified ways to support those in our community - even if we didn't know them.

In the spirit of gratitude, I want to extend my thanks to the support we get from our clients, partners, and the university. Everyone in the Dean's Office of the School of Public Service deserves special recognition for all you do to strengthen IPI - thank you!

As we end the semester, I wish you a holiday season full of peace and rest and hope 2022 brings us all health, happiness, and more opportunities for impactful partnerships.

BEST,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Fry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DR. VANESSA CROSSGROVE FRY

PROJECT LIST

PROPOSAL STAGE

- Housing Industry Trends (sponsor, Franklin Building Supply)
- Housing Innovations Pilot Analysis (sponsor, City of Boise)
- HUD Eviction Protection Program Grant (sponsor, Idaho Legal Aid Services)
- State of the Nonprofit Sector Survey (sponsor, Idaho Nonprofit Center)
- West Central Mountains Creative District Network Analysis and Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Commission on the Arts)

PENDING

- City of Kamiah Community Resilience Assessment (sponsor, Hazard and Climate Resiliency Institute)
- Family Caregiver Navigator Cost Benefit Analysis (sponsor, Idaho Blue Cross Foundation)
- Good Samaritan Home Program Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Blue Cross Foundation)
- Recovery, Renewal and Resilience in a Post-Pandemic World (sponsor, Trans-Atlantic Platform for Social Sciences and Humanities)

ONGOING SPONSORED

- A Foundation for Research into Webcams as Tools in Informal STEM Learning (sponsor, National Science Foundation)
- Communities of Excellence Charter School Program Evaluation (sponsor, Bluum)
- Connected Canyon County (sponsor, Valley Regional Transit)

ONGOING SPONSORED

- COVID-19 Travel Behavior Study (sponsor, Valley Regional Transit)
- Department of Motor Vehicles Service Delivery Analysis (sponsor, Idaho Transportation Department)
- Educational Programming Attitudinal Awareness Survey (sponsor, Idaho Public Television)
- Guardian Ad Litem Program Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Supreme Court)
- Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey (sponsor, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation)
- Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Idahoans (sponsor, United Way of the Treasure Valley)
- SAMHSA Treatment and Transitions Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Health and Welfare)
- Statewide Affordable Housing Assessment (sponsor, Office of the Governor)
- Tribal Courts Survey (sponsor, Idaho Legal Aid Services)
- Teton River Management Policy Analysis (sponsor, Warm Springs Consulting)
- Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey (sponsor, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality)

ONGOING UNSPONSORED

- Boise State's COVID-19 Dashboard
- City Go Annual Awareness Survey
- Democracy in the 21st Century manuscript

ONGOING UNSPONSORED

- Municipal COVID-19 Responses by Government Form manuscript
- Rural Industry Cluster Needs Assessment
- SPS Statewide and Treasure Valley Surveys

ENDING

- Idaho Literacy Intervention Program Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho State Board of Education)

MPA CAPSTONE

- Boise State Employee Housing Needs Assessment (client, Boise State University)
- Critical Crash Data Analysis and Policy Alternatives (client, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance)
- Demographic Shifts in Idaho (client, International Rescue Committee)
- Impact of HB392 (client, Boise Elevated)
- Impact of Idaho's Community Schools (client, United Way of the Treasure Valley)
- Program Evaluation (client, Good Samaritan Home)
- Water Pollutant Discharge Quantification (client, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality)

HOUSING VIP

- Affordable Housing in the Treasure Valley (client, Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho)



PROJECT UPDATES

CITY GO ANNUAL AWARENESS SURVEY

Team: Matthew May, Emily Pape

This month saw the distribution of the 2021 City Go Annual Awareness survey. The IPI project team spent the last month organizing outreach to 2020 survey distribution partners, generating custom links, and sharing distribution strategy with those partners including City Go, Boise State University, the City of Boise, the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce, and St. Luke's. Results will be analyzed and compared to baseline data from prior surveys.

DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES SERVICE DELIVERY ANALYSIS

Team: Gabe Osterhout, Matthew May, Cheong Kim, Emily Pape, Vanessa Fry

The IPI project team recently closed the DMV county agent survey, which asked about local policies and perceptions, and received responses from 175 front-line workers across 40 Idaho counties. While analyzing survey data, researchers are also conducting interviews with county assessors and sheriffs, who are responsible for administering vehicle and driver services, to gain a better understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of the current DMV system, as well as potential improvements.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING ATTITUDINAL AWARENESS SURVEY

Team: Matthew May, Cheong Kim, Aisha Kayed

This month the IPI team received Institutional Review Board approval for the project and coordinated distribution of its survey to two separate populations. The first was a representative statewide sample of at least 525 Idaho adults to assess the attitudes of the general public towards Idaho Public Television (IPTV), PBS, and PBS KIDS programming. The second survey of existing IPTV constituents (viewers, supporters, and donors), gathered over 900 responses in the first 72 hours. Once both distributions are complete, the project team will begin to analyze the survey results, explore any differences between the two populations, and share their findings with IPTV.

IDAHO LITERACY INTERVENTION PROGRAM EVALUATION

Team: Matthew May, McAllister Hall

This month, the IPI project team concluded its analysis of Idaho's Literacy Intervention Program using performance data from the Idaho Reading Indicator assessment, expense data, and all-day Kindergarten enrollment data. The evaluation examines the program's effectiveness, design, and the use of funds. A draft report was shared with the Office of the State Board of Education mid-month and the final version of the report at the end of the month. The final report will be submitted to the Idaho State Legislature in their upcoming session.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION PROJECT BEGINS SECOND YEAR

Team: Vanessa Fry in partnership with Sara Hagenah (College of Education) and The Peregrine Fund

A Foundation for Research into Webcams as Tools in Informal STEM Learning, a research partnership between Boise State and The Peregrine Fund, will build foundational knowledge about basic aspects of STEM webcams in the United States (US) from the perspectives of both practitioners and viewers. Thousands of webcams available to the public are operated by STEM organizations, such as zoos, museums, and government agencies. Learning theory suggests that STEM webcams, especially those with accompanying interpretive tools, have the potential to offer rich informal learning opportunities. However, no research has quantified any aspect (cognitive, behavioral, or emotional) of viewer outcomes. This study will be the first to develop baseline data regarding cognitive, behavioral, and emotional aspects of perceived viewer experience. It will also help inform webcam practitioners' use of webcams. As the project enters its second year the team will be distributing surveys to webcam practitioners and viewers.

TETON RIVER RECREATION MANAGEMENT POLICY ANALYSIS

Team: Ben Larsen

Warm Springs Consulting (WSC) and IPI partnered with Teton County to learn about stakeholder perceptions of the economic and environmental impacts of recreation policy alternatives on the Teton River. IPI will provide policy analysis expertise and background research on prior local policies adopted in Idaho. IPI will also assist in facilitation of two virtual charrettes and contribute content to the final presentation.

TRIBAL COURTS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Team: Ben Larsen, Lantz McGinnis-Brown, Aisha Kayed

Idaho Legal Aid Services' Indian Law Unit is conducting a needs assessment of Tribal courts in Idaho to inform expansion of operations and service delivery. IPI will conduct a survey of those working in the Tribal court systems, providing services to low-income residents, and community members that interact with the courts. This month the team drafted the survey instrument to be reviewed and edited in December. The survey is expected in the field in January 2022.

WASTEWATER AND DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS SURVEY

Team: Matthew May, Gabe Osterhout

The project team finalized and distributed a survey to public drinking water and wastewater systems operators this month regarding infrastructure projects forecasted over the next five years. The distribution was a coordinated effort between IPI, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Association of Idaho Cities, and Idaho Rural Water Association. The survey is currently in the field and collecting responses. Once complete, the IPI project team will analyze its results and prepare a written report for DEQ. DEQ will then use the results to help inform policy makers on infrastructure needs statewide.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

VIP STUDENTS PRESENT TO COMPASS

Students from the Housing Opportunities for All Vertically Integrated Project (VIP) presented their research regarding affordable housing in the Treasure Valley to the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) at Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS). The multidisciplinary research team of undergraduate and graduate students from Boise State University engaged in solutions-based housing research for the Treasure Valley. While there are many policy interventions that are important in the quest for affordable housing, the research team focused on residential parking requirements as one sample policy intervention that encompasses both housing and transportation costs.

MONTH IN REVIEW

IPI STAFF PUBLISH ON MUNICIPAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN BLUE REVIEW

Cheong Kim, Matthew May, and Vanessa Fry, published a policy brief, “Responses of Municipal Governments to the COVID-19 Pandemic,” in the [Blue Review](#). Kim, May, and Fry summarized their key findings from a survey they conducted in 2020 of 220 cities and towns across 11 western states. Their findings emphasize the importance of municipalities coordinating with relevant stakeholders and achieving buy-in from their residents on COVID response.

MATTHEW MAY PUBLISHES ON HATCH ACT IN THE CONVERSATION

Matthew May published an article in The Conversation titled, “[The Hatch Act, the law Trump deputies are said to have broken, requires government employees to work for the public interest, not partisan campaigns.](#)” The article examines the historical prohibition against political activity by federal employees as well as recent violations of this standard.

VANESSA FRY FACILITATES PANEL DISCUSSION AT URBAN LAND INSTITUTE EVENT

On November 16, Vanessa Fry moderated a panel discussion for Urban Land Institute (ULI) about emerging trends in Idaho real estate. At the event, Director of Real Estate Research for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Andy Warren, presented the 2022 Emerging Trends report published by ULI and PwC and discussed where Idaho aligns with the national trends. ULI’s statewide District Council panel including Dana Briggs (City of Idaho Falls), Dean Pape (deChase Miksis), Chris Meyer (Parkwood Business Properties), and Andy Warren (PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) responded to Dr. Fry’s questions about the report and shared insight into more specific market trends from their area for residential, industrial, commercial and hospitality sectors.

VANESSA FRY PUBLISHES IN BLUE REVIEW

The American West has experienced rapid population growth in recent years, a trend the pandemic has not slowed down. In a new contribution to the Blue Review's [Coronavirus Conversations](#) series, Saleh Ahmed and Vanessa Fry of Boise State and environmental anthropologist Elizabeth Eklund from University of Arizona discuss the changes the pandemic has brought to the way people live and work in the region.

NEWS

[“Solving the housing crisis in Boise starts with research at Boise State’s Idaho Policy Institute”](#)

Arbiter, November 2, 2021

[“Ada Co. shifts chronic homelessness funding, City of Boise will fill the gap”](#)

Boise Dev, November 8, 2021

[“Boise now the second-least affordable housing market across United States and Canada”](#)

Idaho Statesman, November 9, 2021

[“Frank Church Conference looks at eroding trust in institutions and effect on democracy”](#)

Idaho Statesman, November 16, 2021

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

AISHA KAYED

IPI Role: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Intern
Secret Skill: Tableau Expert

Aisha joined IPI in spring 2021 as a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Intern. Since then she has poured her endless enthusiasm into a number of projects and is currently honing her Tableau skills in her work on the Vision Zero Project for City of Boise. Her research interests are health, social issues, human rights, and economic empowerment. Aisha earned her bachelor's degree in Global Studies from Boise State University in May 2020 and is currently completing a Medical Assistant program as part of the Idaho Department of Labor's WIOA program. In the future, she plans to attend medical school where she can combine all of her interests with medicine to find answers to challenging problems.



STAFF LIST

INTERIM DIRECTOR; ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FACULTY

Vanessa Fry, PhD

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Cheong Kim, PhD

Matthew May, PhD

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Benjamin Larsen, PhD

Lantz McGinnis-Brown, MPA

Gabe Osterhout, MA

McAllister Hall, MA

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Emily Pape

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

D'Andre Mathews, MPA

Elijah Kuisachor

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

Valerie Hayes

GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR

Cathe Scott

WORK-STUDY

Melanie Hernandez

INTERN

Aisha Kayed



GET IN TOUCH



ipi@boisestate.edu



(208) 426-5488



[@idaho_policy](https://twitter.com/idaho_policy)



boisestate.edu/sps-ipi/