WESTERN ASSET INTERMEDIATE MUNI FUND INC.

Form N-CSR January 27, 2014

### **UNITED STATES**

### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

### **FORM N-CSR**

### CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED

### MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

**Investment Company Act file number 811-06506** 

Western Asset Intermediate Muni Fund Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

620 Eighth Avenue, 49th Floor, New York, NY 10018

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Robert I. Frenkel, Esq.

Legg Mason & Co., LLC

### **100 First Stamford Place**

Stamford, CT 06902

(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (888) 777-0102

Date of fiscal year end: November 30

Date of reporting period: November 30, 2013

### ITEM 1. REPORT TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The **Annual Report** to Stockholders is filed herewith.

Annual Report

November 30, 2013

# **WESTERN ASSET**

# INTERMEDIATE MUNI FUND INC. (SBI)

INVESTMENT PRODUCTS: NOT FDIC INSURED NO BANK GUARANTEE MAY LOSE VALUE

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The Fund s investment objective is to provide common shareholders a high level of current income exempt from regular federal income taxes\* consistent with prudent investing.

### Letter from the chairman

### Dear Shareholder,

We are pleased to provide the annual report of Western Asset Intermediate Muni Fund Inc. for the twelve-month reporting period ended November 30, 2013. Please read on for a detailed look at prevailing economic and market conditions during the Fund s reporting period and to learn how those conditions have affected Fund performance.

As always, we remain committed to providing you with excellent service and a full spectrum of investment choices. We also remain committed to supplementing the support you receive from your financial advisor. One way we accomplish this is through our website, www.lmcef.com. Here you can gain immediate access to market and investment information, including:

Fund prices and performance,

Market insights and commentaries from our portfolio managers, and

A host of educational resources.

We look forward to helping you meet your financial goals.

<sup>\*</sup>Certain investors may be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax ( AMT ), and state and local taxes will apply. Capital gains, if any, are fully taxable. Please consult your personal tax or legal adviser.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Fuller

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

December 27, 2013

II Western Asset Intermediate Muni Fund Inc.

### Investment commentary

#### **Economic review**

The U.S. economy continued to grow over the twelve months ended November 30, 2013 (the reporting period ). Looking back, U.S. gross domestic product ( GDP growth, as reported by the U.S. Department of Commerce, was an anemic 0.1% during the fourth quarter of 2012. This weakness was partially driven by moderating private inventory investment and federal government spending. Economic growth then accelerated, as first quarter 2013 GDP growth was 1.1%, supported by strengthening consumer spending. GDP growth in the second quarter further improved to 2.5%. This was partially due to increases in exports and non-residential fixed investments, along with a smaller decline in federal government spending versus the previous quarter. The U.S. Department of Commerce s final reading for third quarter 2013 GDP growth, released after the reporting period ended, was 4.1%. Stronger growth was driven, in part, by an increase in private inventory investment, a deceleration in imports and accelerating state and local government spending.

The U.S. job market improved during the reporting period, although unemployment remained elevated from a historical perspective. When the period began, unemployment, as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor, was 7.8%. Unemployment fell to 7.7% in February 2013 and edged lower over much of the next seven months to reach 7.2% in September 2013. After rising to 7.3% in October, unemployment then fell to 7.0% in November, its lowest reading since November 2008. Falling unemployment during the period was partially due to a decline in the workforce participation rate, which was 63% in November, close to its lowest level since 1978.

While sales of existing-homes have declined in recent months given rising mortgage rates, home prices continued to move higher. According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), existing-home sales fell 4.3% on a seasonally adjusted basis in November 2013 versus the previous month and were 1.2% lower than in November 2012. However, the NAR reported that the median existing-home price for all housing types was \$196,300 in November 2013, up 9.4% from November 2012. The inventory of homes available for sale in November 2013 was 0.9% lower than the previous month at a 5.1 month supply at the current sales pace and was 5.0% higher than in November 2012.

The manufacturing sector expanded during the majority of the reporting period, although it experienced a temporary soft patch. Based on the Institute for Supply Management s Purchasing Managers Index ( PMhanufacturing expanded during the first five months of the reporting period. It then contracted in May 2013, with a PMI of 49.0 (a reading below 50 indicates a contraction, whereas a reading above 50 indicates an expansion). This represented the PMI s lowest reading since June 2009. However, this was a short-term setback, as the PMI rose over the next six months and was 57.3 in November, the best reading since April 2011.

The Federal Reserve Board (Fedii took a number of actions as it sought to meet its dual mandate of fostering maximum employment and price stability. As has been the case since December 2008, the Fed kept the federal funds rateiv at a historically low

Western Asset Intermediate Muni Fund Inc.

### Investment commentary (cont d)

range between zero and 0.25%. At its meeting in December 2012, the Fed announced that it would continue purchasing \$40 billion per month of agency mortgage-backed securities ( MBS ), as well as initially purchasing \$45 billion per month of longer-term Treasuries. At its meeting that ended on June 19, 2013, the Fed did not make any material changes to its official policy statement. However, in a press conference following the meeting, Fed Chairman Bernanke said the Committee currently anticipates that it would be appropriate to moderate the monthly pace of purchases later this year: and if the subsequent data remain broadly aligned with our current expectations for the economy, we would continue to it ial light

reduce the pace of purchases in measured steps through the first half of next year, ending purchases around midyear. In a surprise to many investors, at its meeting that ended on September 18, 2013, the Fed did not taper its asset purchase program and said that it decided to awa more evidence that progress will be sustained before adjusting the pace of its purchases. Fed Chairman Bernanke also brought up the potent for a partial government shutdown on October 1 and the debt ceiling debate as reasons for maintaining its current policy. As expected, at its meeting that concluded on October 30, 2013, the Fed maintained its asset purchase program. Finally, at the Fed s meeting that concluded on December 18, 2013, after the reporting period ended, the Fed announced that it would begin reducing its monthly asset purchases, saying In of the cumulative progress toward maximum employment and the improvement in the outlook for labor market conditions, the Committee decided to modestly reduce the pace of its asset purchases. Beginning in January, the Committee will add to its holdings of longer-term Treasury securities at a pace of \$40 billion per month rather than \$45 billion per month.
As always, thank you for your confidence in our stewardship of your assets.
Sincerely,
Kenneth D. Fuller
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
December 27, 2013
All investments are subject to risk including the possible loss of principal. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.
$^{\mathrm{i}}$ Gross domestic product ( GDP ) is the market value of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time.
ii The Institute for Supply Management s PMI is based on a survey of purchasing executives who buy the raw materials for manufacturing at more than 350 companies. It offers an early reading on the health of the manufacturing sector.

- iii The Federal Reserve Board (Fed) is responsible for the formulation of policies designed to promote economic growth, full employment, stable prices and a sustainable pattern of international trade and payments.
- iv The federal funds rate is the rate charged by one depository institution on an overnight sale of immediately available funds (balances at the Federal Reserve) to another depository institution; the rate may vary from depository institution to depository institution and from day to day.
- IV Western Asset Intermediate Muni Fund Inc.

### Fund overview

#### Q. What is the Fund s investment strategy?

**A.** The Fund s investment objective is to provide common shareholders a high level of current income exempt from regular federal income taxes consistent with prudent investing. Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in municipal obligations. The Fund also maintains a dollar-weighted average effective maturity of between three and ten years. Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its total assets in debt securities that are, at the time of investment, rated investment grade by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO) or, if unrated, of equivalent quality as determined by the investment manager. In addition, up to 20% of the Funds total assets may be invested in debt securities that are, at the time of investment, rated below investment grade by an NRSRO or, if unrated, of equivalent quality as determined by the investment manager.

At Western Asset Management Company (Western Asset), the Fund's subadviser, we utilize a fixed-income team approach, with decisions derived from interaction among various investment management sector specialists. The sector teams are comprised of Western Asset's senior portfolio management personnel, research analysts and an in-house economist. Under this team approach, management of client fixed-income portfolios will reflect a consensus of interdisciplinary views within the Western Asset organization. The individuals responsible for development of investment strategy, day-to-day portfolio management, oversight and coordination of the Fund are Stephen A. Walsh, Robert E. Amodeo, David T. Fare and Dennis J. McNamara. It is anticipated that Mr. Walsh will step down as a member of the Fund's portfolio management team effective on or about March 31, 2014 and that S. Kenneth Leech will join the Fund's portfolio management team at that time. Mr. Leech has been employed by Western Asset as an investment professional for more than 20 years.

#### Q. What were the overall market conditions during the Fund s reporting period?

A. The spread sectors (non-Treasuries) experienced several periods of heightened risk aversion and generated mixed results versus equal-duration Treasuries over the twelve months ended November 30, 2013. Risk aversion was prevalent at times given shifting economic data, geopolitical issues, signs of shifting monetary policy by the Federal Reserve Board (Fed and the U.S government s sixteen-day partial shutdown which ended on October 16, 2013.

Both short- and long-term Treasury yields moved higher during the twelve months ended November 30, 2013. Two-year Treasury yields rose from 0.25% at the beginning of the period to 0.28% at the end of the period. Their peak of 0.52% occurred on September 5, 2013 and they were as low as 0.20% in early May 2013. Ten-year Treasury yields were 1.62% at the beginning of the period and 2.75% at the end of the period. Their peak of 2.98% also occurred on September 5, 2013 and their low of 1.59% took place on December 6, 2012.

The municipal bond market underperformed its taxable bond counterpart during the twelve months ended November 30, 2013. Over that period, the Barclays Municipal Bond Index $^{ii}$  and the Barclays U.S. Aggregate

### Fund overview (cont d)

 $Index^{iii} \ fell\ 3.51\% \ and\ 1.60\%, respectively. \ The\ municipal\ bond\ market\ lagged\ the\ taxable\ bond\ market\ during\ seven\ of\ the\ twelve\ months$ covered by this report. In addition to the negative impact of higher interest rates, investor sentiment for municipal bonds was weak at times given a number of well publicized events.

#### Q. How did we respond to these changing market conditions?

A. There were several changes to the Fund during the reporting period. We pared the Fund s allocation to Puerto Rico in order to reduce its overall risk exposure. During the reporting period, we utilized leverage in the Fund. This detracted from results given the municipal market s weak results. We ended the period with leverage from preferred shares as a percentage of gross assets of roughly 27%. The Fund opportunistically employed the use of short U.S. Treasury futures on several occasions during the reporting period to manage duration. iv This strategy contributed to the Fund s performance.

#### Performance review

For the twelve months ended November 30, 2013, Western Asset Intermediate Muni Fund Inc. returned -4.08% based on its net asset value ( NAV and -14.98% based on its New York Stock Exchange Amex ( NYSE Amex ) market price per share. The Fund s unmanaged benchmark, the Barclays 1-15 Year Municipal Bond Index<sup>vi</sup>, returned -1.85% for the same period. The Lipper Intermediate Municipal Debt Closed-End Funds Category Average<sup>vii</sup> returned -4.84% over the same time frame. Please note that Lipper performance returns are based on each fund s NAV.

Certain investors may be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax, and state and local taxes will apply. Capital gains, if any, are fully taxable. Please consult your personal tax or legal adviser.

During the twelve-month period, the Fund made distributions to common stock shareholders totaling \$0.48 per share.\* The performance table shows the Fund s twelve-month total return based on its NAV and market price as of November 30, 2013. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

#### Performance Snapshot as of November 30, 2013

\$9.77 (NAV)

Price Per Share Total Return\*\* -4.08% -14.98% \$8.89 (Market Price)

All figures represent past performance and are not a guarantee of future results.

\*\* Total returns are based on changes in NAV or market price, respectively. Returns reflect the deduction of all Fund expenses, including management fees, operating expenses, and other Fund expenses. Returns do not reflect the deduction of brokerage commissions or taxes that investors may pay on distributions or the sale of shares.

Total return assumes the reinvestment of all distributions at NAV.

Total return assumes the reinvestment of all distributions in additional shares in accordance with the Fund s Dividend Reinvestment Plan.

2 Western Asset Intermediate Muni Fund Inc. 2013 Annual Report 12-Month

<sup>\*</sup> Distributions paid by the Fund may be comprised of income, capital gains and/or return of capital. For the character of distributions paid during the fiscal year ended November 30, 2013, please refer to page 18 of this report.

#### Q. What were the leading contributors to performance?

**A.** The largest contributor to the Fund s relative performance during the reporting period was its use of Treasury futures, as they helped to reduce the portfolio s duration amid the rising interest rate environment.

The Fund s underweight to holdings in Puerto Rico was positive for results as Commonwealth bonds underperformed the benchmark during the reporting period (interest from bonds issued in certain territories, such as Puerto Rico, are tax-exempt in all states).

Elsewhere, an overweight to the Industrial Revenue sector and an overweight to municipal securities with an A rating contributed to performance.

#### Q. What were the leading detractors from performance?

**A.** The largest detractor from relative performance during the reporting period was the Fund s duration positioning. In particular, having a duration that was longer than that of the benchmark was not rewarded as rates moved higher during the reporting period.

Having an underweight to Pre-refunded viii securities detracted from results as these higher rated securities outperformed the benchmark.

Also detracting from performance during the reporting period were some of the Fund squality biases. In particular, the Fund s overweight exposure to lower rated investment grade municipal bonds and its underweight to AAA-rated municipal bonds were negative for results as lower rated securities underperformed their higher rated counterparts.

#### Looking for additional information?

The Fund is traded under the symbol SBI and its closing market price is available in most newspapers under the NYSE Amex listings. The daily NAV is available on-line under the symbol XSBIX on most financial websites. *Barron s* and the *Wall Street Journal s* Monday edition both carry closed-end fund tables that provide additional information. In addition, the Fund issues a quarterly press release that can be found on most major financial websites as well as www.lmcef.com.

In a continuing effort to provide information concerning the Fund, shareholders may call 1-888-777-0102 (toll free), Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time, for the Fund s current NAV, market price and other information.

Thank you for your investment in Western Asset Intermediate Muni Fund Inc. As always, we appreciate that you have chosen us to manage your assets and we remain focused on achieving the Fund s investment goals.

Sincerely,

Western Asset Management Company

December 13, 2013

RISKS: The Fund s investments are subject to interest rate and credit risks. As interest rates rise, bond prices fall, reducing the value of the fixed-income securities held by the Fund. Lower-rated, higher-yielding bonds, known as junk bond, are subject to greater credit risk, including the risk of default, than higher-rated obligations. Municipal securities purchased by the Fund may be adversely affected by changes in the financial condition of municipal issuers and insurers, regulatory and political developments, uncertainties and public

Western Asset Intermediate Muni Fund Inc. 2013 Annual Report

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### Fund overview (cont d)

perceptions, and other factors. The Fund may use derivatives, such as options and futures, which can be illiquid, may disproportionately increase losses, and have a potentially large impact on Fund performance.

The mention of sector breakdowns is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as a recommendation to purchase or sell any securities. The information provided regarding such sectors is not a sufficient basis upon which to make an investment decision. Investors seeking financial advice regarding the appropriateness of investing in any securities or investment strategies discussed should consult their financial professional. Portfolio holdings are subject to change at any time and may not be representative of the portfolio managers current or future investments. The Fund s portfolio composition is subject to change at any time.

All investments are subject to risk including the possible loss of principal. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All index performance reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes. Please note that an investor cannot invest directly in an index.

The information provided is not intended to be a forecast of future events, a guarantee of future results or investment advice. Views expressed may differ from those of the firm as a whole.

- <sup>i</sup> The Federal Reserve Board (Fed) is responsible for the formulation of policies designed to promote economic growth, full employment, stable prices and a sustainable pattern of international trade and payments.
- ii The Barclays Municipal Bond Index is a market value weighted index of investment grade municipal bonds with maturities of one year or more.
- iii The Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index is a broad-based bond index comprised of government, corporate, mortgage- and asset-backed issues, rated investment grade or higher, and having at least one year to maturity.
- iv Duration is the measure of the price sensitivity of a fixed-income security to an interest rate change of 100 basis points. Calculation is based on the weighted average of the present values for all cash flows.
- v Net asset value ( NAV ) is calculated by subtracting total liabilities and outstanding preferred stock (if any) from the closing value of all securities held by the Fund (plus all other assets) and dividing the result (total investments) by the total number of the common shares outstanding. The NAV fluctuates with changes in the market prices of securities in which the Fund has invested. However, the price at which an investor may buy or sell shares of the Fund is the Fund s market price as determined by supply of and demand for the Fund s shares.
- vi The Barclays 1-15 Year Municipal Bond Index is a market value weighted index of investment grade (Baa3/BBB- or higher) fixed-rate municipal bonds with maturities of one to fifteen years.
- vii Lipper, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reuters, provides independent insight on global collective investments. Returns are based on the twelve-month period ended November 30, 2013, including the reinvestment of all distributions, including returns of capital, if any, calculated among the 9 funds in the Fund s Lipper category.
- viii A pre-refunded bond is a bond in which the original security has been replaced by an escrow, usually consisting of treasuries or agencies, which has been structured to pay principal and interest and any call premium, either to a call date (in the case of a pre-refunded bond), or to maturity (in the case of an escrowed to maturity bond).

# $Fund\ at\ a\ glance\ ({\tt unaudited})$

Investment breakdown (%) as a percent of total investments

The bar graph above represents the composition of the Fund s investments as of November 30, 2013 and November 30, 2012 and does not include derivatives such as futures contracts. The Fund is actively managed. As a result, the composition of the Fund s investments is subject to change at any time.

## Spread duration (unaudited)

Economic Exposure November 30, 2013

Spread duration measures the sensitivity to changes in spreads. The spread over Treasuries is the annual risk-premium demanded by investors to hold non-Treasury securities. Spread duration is quantified as the % change in price resulting from a 100 basis points change in spreads. For a security with positive spread duration an increase in spreads would result in a price decline and a decline in spreads would result in a price increase. This chart highlights the market sector exposure of the Fund sectors relative to the selected benchmark sectors as of the end of the reporting period.

Benchmark Barclays 1-15 Year Municipal Bond Index SBI Western Asset Intermediate Muni Fund Inc.

### Effective duration (unaudited)

**Interest Rate Exposure** November 30, 2013

#### **Total Effective Duration**

SBI 5.95 years Benchmark 5.85 years

Effective duration measures the sensitivity to changes in relevant interest rates. Effective duration is quantified as the % change in price resulting from a 100 basis points change in interest rates. For a security with positive effective duration, an increase in interest rates would result in a price decline and a decline in interest rates would result in a price increase. This chart highlights the interest rate exposure of the Fund sectors relative to the selected benchmark sectors as of the end of the reporting period.

Benchmark Barclays 1-15 Year Municipal Bond Index SBI Western Asset Intermediate Muni Fund Inc.

# Schedule of investments

November 30, 2013

### Western Asset Intermediate Muni Fund Inc.

Security	Rate	Maturity Date	Face Amount	Value
Municipal Bonds 133.6%				
Alabama 1.1%				
Jefferson County, AL, Sewer Revenue, Subordinated Lien Warrants	5.000%	10/1/21	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,563,990 <sup>(a)</sup>
Alaska 0.4%				
Anchorage, AK, GO, Refunding, FGIC	6.000%	10/1/14	500,000	523,675
Arizona 3.1%				
Pinal County, AZ, Electric District No. 3	4.000%	7/1/23	1,000,000	1,013,030
Pinal County, AZ, Electric District No. 3	5.000%	7/1/24	1,760,000	1,908,685
Pinal County, AZ, Electric District No. 3	5.000%	7/1/25	1,280,000	1,376,755
Total Arizona				4,298,470
California 16.5%				
Bay Area Toll Authority, CA, Toll Bridge Revenue, San Francisco Bay Area	1.160%	4/1/24	2,000,000	1,999,920 (b)(c)
California State PCFA, Water Furnishing Revenue	5.000%	7/1/27	2,000,000	1,870,620 (d)(e)
California State, GO	0.818%	12/1/17	1,500,000	1,502,505 (b)(c)
California Statewide CDA Revenue, Lodi Memorial Hospital, CMI	5.000%	12/1/22	2,000,000	2,131,580
California Statewide CDA, Student Housing Revenue, Provident Group-Pomona				
Properties LLC	5.600%	1/15/36	565,000	482,250
Long Beach, CA, Bond Finance Authority Lease Revenue	5.000%	8/1/31	1,855,000	1,928,885
Los Angeles County, CA, Public Works Financing Authority, Lease Revenue:				
Multiple Capital Project II	5.000%	8/1/21	1,000,000	1,161,880
Multiple Capital Project II	5.000%	8/1/22	1,000,000	1,156,420
M-S-R Energy Authority, CA, Gas Revenue	6.125%	11/1/29	3,000,000	3,406,200
Modesto, CA, Irrigation District Electric Revenue	5.000%	7/1/24	4,130,000	4,579,550
Modesto, CA, Irrigation District Electric Revenue	5.000%	7/1/25	2,000,000	2,202,240
Riverside County, CA, Transportation Commission Sales Tax Revenue, Limited Tax	5.250%	6/1/26		