
STAFF REPORT

Date: March 6, 2024

To: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency – Advisory Planning Commission

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Recommendation of Approval of the 2024 Active Transportation Plan

Action Requested:

It is requested that the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) conduct a public hearing and provide comments on the draft Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) 2024 Active Transportation Plan (ATP, the plan). TRPA is seeking APC’s recommendation of the draft ATP to the TRPA Governing Board for potential adoption as the Active Transportation Plan as required by the State of California and for support of the forthcoming Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Project Description/Background:

TRPA, as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, is committed to keeping the ATP current to ensure the plan supports the planning and funding needs of the region. The last update to the plan was in 2018 with the TRPA Governing Board adoption of technical amendments only. The draft 2024 ATP includes major and minor changes to new facility recommendations, updating of best-practices and research methods that have occurred since the previous update, comprehensive data analysis, and environmental screening. Updates include Existing Conditions and Needs Analysis, Network Recommendations, Implementation Plan, and Priority Project list.

In addition, staff introduces two new ATP components: a “Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress/Pedestrian Experience Index” (BLTS/PEI), and California designated “Class IV” bicycle facilities. Class IV facilities are dedicated bicycle lanes that are physically separated from traffic by a vertical element. This could be flexposts, bollards, curbs, or a row of parked cars that separate the bicyclists from the auto travel lanes. BLST/PEI analyses are modern active transportation planning tools to help identify high-stress roadways, while proposing a standard list of stress-reducing infrastructure that are designed to encourage people to ride, roll or walk on a low(er)-stress network because they may no longer feel it is too unsafe or stressful. Not only are these analyses important for various planning purposes, they also serve to make Tahoe’s local agencies more competitive in regional, state and federal grant applications by identifying needs and recommendations on how to make Tahoe’s active transportation network more equitable, accessible, and interconnected. The following is synopsis of each chapter within the draft plan:

Chapter 1: Introduction

A brief overview of the 2024 Active Transportation Plan update, highlighting key themes, plan organization, public outreach, local agency roles and responsibilities, as well as a brief explainer of Tahoe's regional land use.

Chapter 2: Existing Conditions and Needs Analysis

A fully updated needs assessment is a part of this update as well as new data, maps, figures, and tables. This chapter introduces the Bicycle Levels of Traffic Stress and Pedestrian Experience Index analyses, current challenges and solutions to safety, connectivity, implementation, and maintenance issues.

Chapter 3: Goals, Policies, & Performance Measures

A brief overview of the future of active transportation in the Tahoe Basin, and how those performance metrics support specific direction on how the TRPA, as the Transportation Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO) and its partnering agencies, organizations, and private entities can work together to improve active transportation and increase its use. This chapter is helpful for agencies to align regional goals with local project development.

Chapter 4: Network Recommendations

Each corridor map has been updated to illustrate existing conditions and highlight projects nearing implementation. Since the 2018 ATP adoption, new data analyses are available that enrich the existing and proposed infrastructure maps and project lists. This includes existing and proposed bicycle parking locations. Specifically, each corridor section now includes:

- New maps highlighting network recommendations
- A map of the existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure network (shared-use paths, sidewalks, bike lanes, bike routes, and bicycle parking)
- An updated map of the corridor crash analysis
- An updated priority project list

Chapter 5: Programs

An update on regional active transportation programs, such as Bike Month activities, Safe Routes to School, education, and awareness campaigns.

Chapter 6: Implementation Plan

This chapter provides a detailed outlook on how TRPA can best support implementation of our region's priority projects

Outreach:

The current ATP update included engaging our regional partners, residents, and visitors around the region either in-person or via our Transportation Safety Survey, to understand how stakeholders feel about the current active transportation network in Tahoe and what could be better. Staff have attended

various events in both the North and South Shores of Lake Tahoe including Farmer’s Markets, the Family Resource Center, the Sierra Community House, multiple Bike Kitchen events, Earth Day events, among others. Beyond public outreach events, staff sought technical assistance and local jurisdiction collaboration with the convening of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) designed to gather local agency feedback and technical input on our ongoing planning process.

The TAC invitees include various representatives from:

- Caltrans
- NDOT
- El Dorado County
- Washoe County
- Douglas County
- Placer County
- City of South Lake Tahoe
- South Shore Transportation Management Association
- Achieve Tahoe
- Tahoe City Public Utility District
- North Tahoe Fire
- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Lake Valley Fire
- Tahoe Fire
- Nevada Highway Patrol
- California Highway Patrol
- Douglas County Sheriff
- El Dorado County Sheriff
- League to Save Lake Tahoe
- California Tahoe Conservancy
- Tahoe Transportation District
- Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition

The draft ATP is currently released for public comment and can be found at www.trpa.gov/atp. Public comment on the draft closes at 12:00pm Friday, March 15th. After incorporating all relevant comments, staff will seek adoption via resolution at the TMPO Governing Board meeting held March 27, 2024.

Regional Plan Conformance

2024 Active Transportation Plan complies with all requirements of federal funding recipients and are consistent with the TRPA Regional Plan and supports goals and policies to implement the Regional Plan. The Active Transportation Plan also supports the objectives of the TRPA Regional Transportation Plan and associated Goals and Policies.

Contact Information:

For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Ryan Murray at (775) 589-5244 or rmurray@trpa.gov. To submit a written public comment, email publiccomment@trpa.gov with the appropriate agenda item in the subject line. Written comments received by 4 p.m. the day before a scheduled public meeting will be distributed and posted to the TRPA website before the meeting begins. TRPA does not guarantee written comments received after 4 p.m. the day before a meeting will be distributed and posted in time for the meeting.

Attachments/Links

- A. Draft 2024 Active Transportation Plan (found at www.trpa.gov/atp)