



STAFF REPORT

Date: July 21, 2021
To: TRPA Governing Board
From: TRPA Staff
Subject: Update on the US 50 Tahoe East Shore Corridor

Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff will provide an update on the US 50 Tahoe East Shore Corridor Management Plan (CMP) and projects that are planned for implementation along the corridor in the next few years. The projects include the Warrior Way Intersection Safety and Drainage Improvement Project and The Round Hill Pines Intersection Improvement Project. This item is for informational purposes and no action is required.

US 50 East Shore Corridor Management Plan:

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), in collaboration with partners, launched the CMP in early 2021. The CMP will assess and evaluate transportation and sustainable recreation needs along the 13-mile corridor from Spooner Summit to the California/Nevada Stateline. The CMP will focus on improving safety, expanding multi-modal transportation options, enhancing visitor experience, promotion of economic vitality, and protection of Lake Tahoe. The CMP planning process will identify improvement strategies for the corridor based on existing regional plans, stakeholder input and assessment of travel and safety data.

NDOT hosted public meetings in June 2021 and there is currently a public survey available on the project website. A draft CMP will be released in 2022 and a final CMP will be considered in late 2022.

More information on the CMP may be found on the project website and the Storymap created for the project at the following links:

<https://www.dot.nv.gov/projects-programs/programs-studies/u-s-50-tahoe-east-shore-corridor-management-plan>

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4bb45e6f1ea94ef9b86dd65a6006618a>

The following projects were identified as a high priority and were planned and will be implemented prior to completion of the CMP. The projects will be referenced in the CMP as projects implemented along the corridor that meet the plan goals and objectives.

US 50 at Warrior Way Intersection Safety and Drainage Improvement Project (EIP # 01.01.01.0199):

The Warrior Way Safety and Drainage Improvement Project will improve the safety of this intersection by adding a traffic signal and pedestrian crossing improvements. The current non-signalized intersection accesses Zephyr Cove Elementary School, George Whittell High School, and the Zephyr Cove Park and has caused safety concerns. NDOT traffic and safety data has indicated that improvements at this intersection are necessary, and it was determined that a signalized intersection would be the best option. Drainage and water quality improvements will also be included as part of the project to treat urban stormwater making this a multi-benefit EIP project. The Warrior Way intersection improvements will be implemented by NDOT in 2022.

The intersection will provide the space for a second ingress/egress into Zephyr Cove Resort, which is owned by the USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). The LTBMU has future plans to add a second entrance to the Zephyr Cove Resort at this location and improve circulation and parking within the resort. The plans are still in development for these improvements and there is currently not a time set for implementation.

Round Hill Pines Intersection Improvement Project (EIP # 03.01.02.0070):

The Round Hill Pines Intersection Improvement Project proposes a new entrance to Round Hill Pines Resort. The new entrance will be 0.2 miles north of the existing entrance and will include a left turn lane into the resort and a northbound acceleration lane along US 50. The current US 50 entrance configuration into the Round Hill Pines Resort is unsafe due to limited sight distance in both directions and unprotected turning movements across US 50. The project will improve the sight distance for vehicles and make turning movements into and out of the resort safer for all users.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD) in cooperation with LTBMU and TRPA has prepared a public Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts of the proposed project. The public draft EA was available for public comment from May 28th to June 27th, 2021. Six comment letters were received on the public draft EA which will be addressed in the final EA. The final EA will be issued in late 2021 and final project consideration will occur shortly thereafter. Construction is planned for 2022.

As a separate but linked project, the LTBMU is proposing access, parking, and circulation improvements to the Round Hill Pines Resort. The current Round Hill Pines Resort access road contains a narrow roadway width, steep grades, and sharp curves. This limits the flow for two-way traffic and is not conducive to larger vehicles including transit. There is also parking along the unimproved road shoulders causing significant erosion. The project will construct a new entrance that is wider and safer, two new parking lots, a roundabout for transit, and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Once the resort improvements are made vehicles will no longer be able to access the unimproved parking areas. The project will not result in an increase in capacity at the resort. The LTBMU plans on implementing these improvements in 2021. The new entrance from US 50 into the resort will tie into the internal parking and circulation improvements.

Contact Information:

For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Shannon Friedman, TRPA Senior Planner, at (775) 589-5205 or sfriedman@trpa.gov.

Attachment:

- A. U.S. 50 Tahoe East Shore Corridor Map

Attachment A

U.S. 50 Tahoe East Shore Corridor Map

**LAKE
TAHOE**



CAVE ROCK



**SPOONER
SUMMIT**

**NEVADA
CALIFORNIA**

**KINGSBURY
GRADE RD**

