

Appendix D: Public Participation



TRPA’s [public participation process](#) gives residents, visitors, and commuters ample time for early, meaningful, and continued involvement in transportation planning and project review. Diverse public input helps TRPA determine what types of projects meet public needs and desires while ensuring that public funds are directed to the areas of highest need. Transparent and inclusive processes increase public participation and ensure well-prepared and publicly supported plans and projects.

A STRONG FOUNDATION OF FEEDBACK

Input gathered during planning efforts in the last four years informed the Connections 2050 vision. From 2020 through 2024, TRPA reached 6,703 people through surveys and 10,449 people through presentations, workshops, meetings, webinars, and community events.

Previous planning efforts help guide best practices for community engagement to reach diverse audiences, especially priority communities who are traditionally underserved by transportation plans and projects. One of the key takeaways was to make the plans more engaging and easier to understand. With that in mind, TRPA set out to create a new Regional Transportation Plan.

The [RTP Outreach Plan \(Appendix A of the Public Participation Plan\)](#) included two desired outcomes:

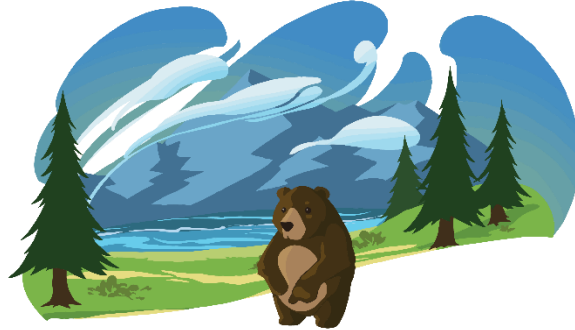
1. **Educate the public** about the Plan vision, goals, policies, and projects
2. Gather input to **prioritize projects** and implementation based on limited funding



Educating the Public

To achieve the first desired outcome, TRPA worked with an artist to create characters of Tahoe animals to describe a first-person account of the vision of the RTP realized. Staff drafted a story with these characters as they explore the Lake Tahoe transportation system in 2050.

The year is 2050 in stunning Lake Tahoe. Billie is a curious and adventurous bear who spends most of her time roaming around the Lake Tahoe Basin. Today is her friend Ezra the Eagle's birthday, so she decides to test out Tahoe's transportation network to pay him a visit.



By going back and forth between the existing condition in 2025 and Billie's "future" day in 2050, people were able to better visualize how the Plan addressed Transit, Trails, Technology, and Towns. This format proved successful for many people to follow [the interactive storymap](#) and presentations to community groups. In fact, TRPA staff heard from many people that they appreciated TRPA's initiative to make what has historically been a dense, jargon-heavy document into an engaging and creative storytelling tool.

The agency shared information about the Plan using a variety of digital and print tools in addition to ample presentations to community groups.

TRPA staff presented information about the RTP update to more than 20 stakeholder and community groups totaling 1,028 people, including walking and biking representatives, public health departments and public health non-governmental organizations, affordable housing advocates, transportation advocates, neighborhood and community groups, environmental advocates, broad-based business organizations, landowners, commercial property interests and homeowner associations, the Native American community, local jurisdictions, transit operators, and the general public.

Of these presentations, two were conducted in Spanish with 60 participants. Other presentations targeted priority community groups such as students (South Tahoe High School and Lake Tahoe Community College) and groups advocating for those with mental and physical differences (Access Tahoe). The table below includes a summary of all outreach conducted as part of the Plan update.

Table 1: Summary of Outreach Events Conducted for the Connections 2050: Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

Date	Type of Outreach	Name of Group	Total # of Participants	Total # of Spanish-speaking Participants	Advertising Methods	Venue	Venue Address	Targeted to Community Priority Zone?
5/22/2024	TRPA Board Meeting	TRPA Governing Board	35	0	TRPA Board Packet	Hybrid (virtual and in-person options)	128 Market St (TRPA office)	No
6/5/2024	Presentation	Tahoe Transportation District Board	15	0	Email, Local partners/community bulletins	Hybrid (virtual and in-person options)	128 Market Street, Stateline NV	No
7/22/2024	Community event	Strong North Tahoe	40	0	Email, Newsletter	In-person	Jakes Grill, Kings Beach	Yes
8/1/2024	Presentation	Tahoe North Truckee Transportation Management Association	25	0	Email, Local partners/community bulletins, Agenda for regular board meeting	Hybrid (virtual and in-person options)	Truckee	No
8/12/2024	Presentation	Lake Tahoe Collaborative	24	0	Local partners/community bulletins	Hybrid (virtual and in-person options)	South Lake Tahoe Library	Yes
8/14/2024	Community event	Lake Tahoe Summit	20	0	Email, Newsletter, Social media, Newspaper/press release, Local partners/community bulletins	In-person	Round Hill Pines	No
8/16/2024	Community event	Ski Run Farmer's Market	85	2	Social media, Local partners/community bulletins	In-person	Ski Run Blvd	No
8/20/2024	Webinar	Community	17	0	Email, Newsletter, Social media	Virtual	Virtual	No
8/22/2024	Community event	Tahoe City Farmer's Market	75	0	Social media, Local partners/community bulletins	In-person	Commons Beach, Tahoe City	No
8/28/2024	Presentation	Sierra Community House Promotoras meeting	45	45	Local partners/community bulletins	In-person	Kings Beach, CA	Yes

8/29/2024	Presentation	Kiwanis - Carson Valley Chapter	25	0	Local partners/community bulletins	In-person	Minden, NV	Yes
9/4/2024	Presentation	BAC (EDC/CSLT)	10	0	Local partners/community bulletins, Public Notice (meeting)	Hybrid (virtual and in-person options)	CSLT PW Offices	No
9/9/2024	Presentation	North Tahoe Business Association	8	0	Unknown how NTBA notices	In-person	Andrew Ryan Offices, Kings Beach	No
9/11/2024	Presentation	Tahoe Douglas Visitors Authority	12	0	Email, Local partners/community bulletins	Hybrid (virtual and in-person options)	Tahoe Blue Event Center	No
9/12/2024	Presentation	Lake Tahoe Visitors Association	10	0	Email, Newsletter, Social media	Hybrid (virtual and in-person options)	Zoom/Virtual	No
9/16/2024	Presentation	Access Tahoe	8	0	Email	Hybrid (virtual and in-person options)	Cowork Tahoe	Yes
9/17/2024	Presentation	Douglas County Leadership	32	0	Private group	In-person	Trpa office	No
9/18/2024	Presentation	Rotary Club of South Lake Tahoe	10	0	Email	In-person	Lake Tahoe Community College	No
9/23/2024	Presentation	Incline Village Crystal Bay Community Advisory Board	10	0	Local partners/community bulletins, Publicly Noticed Meeting	Hybrid (virtual and in-person options)	Incline Village Library	No
9/25/2024	Presentation	Cafecitos	15	15	Social media, Local partners/community bulletins	In-person	Bijou Community School	Yes
9/26/2024	Presentation	Lake Tahoe Unified School District Board	14	0	Email, Local partners/community bulletins, Board Meeting Agenda posted online	In-person	LTUSD Board Room 1021 Al Tahoe Blvd, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150	No
10/2/2024	Presentation	NTCA Board	20	0	Local partners/community bulletins, Publicly Noticed Meeting	Hybrid (virtual and in-person options)	North Tahoe Community Event Center	No

10/3/2024	Presentation	Truckee North Tahoe Transportation Management Association	22	0	Email, Local partners/community bulletins	Hybrid (virtual and in-person options)	Granlibakken Tahoe	No
10/25/2024	Survey	Community	451	1	Email, Newsletter, Social media, Local partners/community bulletins	Virtual	Virtual - survey	No

TRPA staff also printed bilingual flyers with the QR code for an interactive survey (see below) that were distributed at community events, bike valets, and at in-person presentations, in addition to electronic methods.

To address accessibility concerns, TRPA embraced digital platforms and innovative technologies to provide alternative channels for public input. TRPA hosted a public webinar in the summer of 2024 with 67 registrants. The [meeting recording](#) has generated more than 35 additional views. The agency also featured the Plan in multiple e-Newsletters with 12,470 subscribers and many social media posts on Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn.

Prioritizing Projects

[The interactive storymap](#) and multiple bilingual community presentations (see above list) ended with a simple question: *How do we make Billie's day a reality 25 years from now?*



Help us prioritize transportation projects in Tahoe!

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency wants your feedback! Take this survey to inform the vision for Tahoe's transportation system.



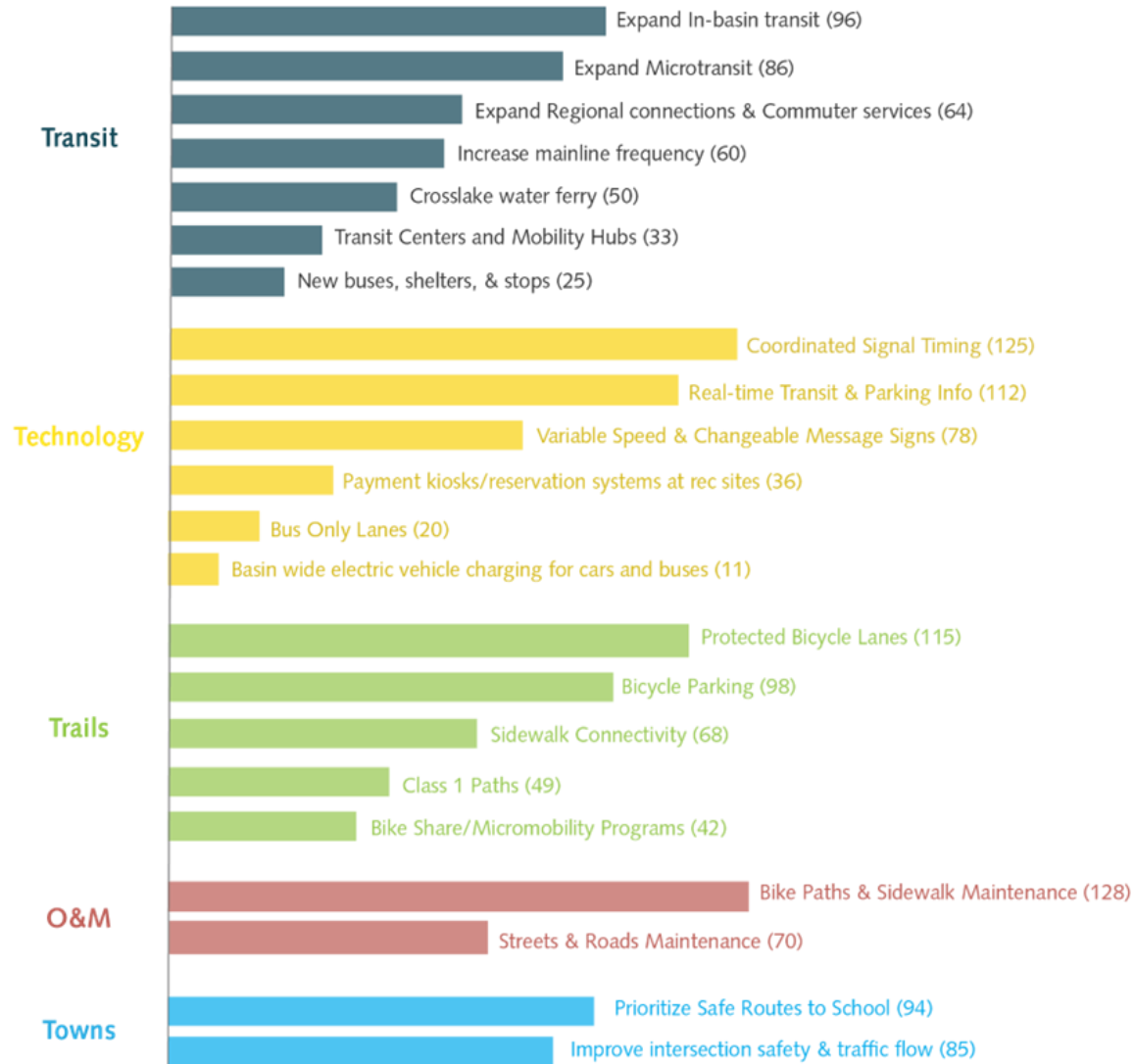
trpa.gov/rtp2050



TRPA used a free, open-source Participatory Budgeting (PB) survey platform designed by a Stanford student to let participants tell us how they would prioritize these projects given limited funding.

Over two months, 449 people responded to the bilingual survey. Overwhelmingly, people prioritized protected bicycle lanes, bike path and sidewalk maintenance, and coordinated signal timing.

Figure 1: Summary of RTP Survey Results



To further support successful coordination, TRPA engaged existing advisory bodies during the Plan’s development. The Tahoe Transportation Implementation Collaborative (TTIC), made up of staff from implementing agencies, convened regularly to provide feedback on the project list to ensure it aligned with local capital improvement programs and affirmed local and state revenue forecasted funding. The TRPA Governing Board also appointed members to the Transportation Performance Advisory Committee (TPAC) to review policy and develop performance metrics to track progress and ensure the Plan will achieve regional goals. This group, composed of local and regional transportation project and program implementors, meets on a biannual basis to develop a transportation performance and recommendations report that informs the Plan.

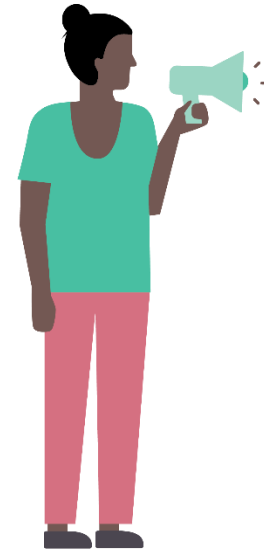
MEASURING SUCCESS

As outlined in the 2024 Public Participation Plan, TRPA is moving to a greater focus on quality engagement over quantity, including allocating more resources towards place-based engagement, bilingual engagement, and making sure everyone is heard. The following metrics have been broken down for the Plan.

- Metric 1: Total number of public participants reached through proactive outreach: **577 people**
- Metric 2: Total number of public participants reached through quantitative methods: **451 people**
- Metric 3: Distribution of public participants who are full-time residents, seasonal residents, visitors, and commuters.

Full-Time Residents	Seasonal Residents	Visitors	Commuters
302	0	153	0

*Note this table only includes a summary of outreach activities where this metric was actively tracked. This metric is not actively tracked during every outreach event.



- Metric 4: Total number of primarily Spanish-speaking residents reached through proactive and quantitative outreach methods: **63 people**
- Metric 5: Distribution of outreach activities targeted towards identified transportation disadvantaged populations or within Community Priority Zones: **6 out of 24 events (25%)**
 - a. Target: Ensure that a minimum of 30% of outreach activities are targeted towards transportation disadvantaged populations or Community Priority Zones.
- Metric 6: Distribution of in-person, virtual, and hybrid engagement activities.

	# of Events	% of Total
<i>In-Person Events</i>	11	46%
<i>Virtual Events</i>	2	8%
<i>Hybrid Events</i>	11	46%