

STAFF REPORT

Date: December 6, 2024
To: TRPA Transportation Committee
From: TRPA Staff
Subject: TRPA Transportation Overview

Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff will provide an overview of TRPA's Transportation Program. This item is for informational purposes and no action is required.

Project Description/Background:

The TRPA Governing Board Transportation Committee was created at the November 15, 2023 Governing Board meeting. TRPA staff will provide a brief overview of TRPA's transportation activities to help orient the committee on the roles and responsibilities of TRPA in the transportation arena (Attachment A). Staff will also provide a brief look ahead of items that will be presented to the committee over the next quarter and beyond.

Contact Information:

For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Nick Haven, MPO Director, at (775) 589-5256 or nhaven@trpa.gov, and Michelle Glickert, Transportation Planning Program Manager, at (775) 589-5204 or mglickert@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.

Attachment

- A. TRPA Roles and Responsibilities

Attachment A

TRPA Roles and Responsibilities

LAKE TAHOE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING OVERVIEW

TRPA holds three integrated regional transportation planning authorities: 1) Tahoe Regional Planning Compact (PL 96-551) planning requirements, 2) Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the California portion of the Lake Tahoe basin, and 3) the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Tahoe Region. TRPA's core function is to provide a venue for coordinating regional transportation planning and administering and tracking transportation funding and projects implementing the Regional Transportation Plan.

The 1980 Tahoe Regional Planning Compact includes the following transportation related provisions:

"...there be established a Tahoe Regional Planning Agency with the powers conferred by this compact including the power to establish environmental threshold carrying capacities and to adopt and enforce a regional plan and implementing ordinances which will achieve and maintain such capacities while providing opportunities for orderly growth and development consistent with such capacities."

The TRPA Regional Plan shall be a single enforceable plan with the following related elements:

- ❖ A Goals and Policy Plan
- ❖ A Transportation Plan for the integrated development of a regional system of transportation, including but not limited to parkways, highways, transportation facilities, transit routes, waterways, navigation facilities, public transportation facilities, bicycle facilities, micro mobility and appurtenant terminals and facilities for the movement of people and goods, within the region.
- ❖ The goal of transportation planning shall be:
 - To reduce dependency on the automobile by making more effective use of existing transportation modes and of public transit to move people and goods within the region; and
 - To reduce, to the extent feasible, air pollution caused by motor vehicles.
- ❖ Where increases in capacity are required, the agency shall give preference to providing such capacity through best management of existing resources, public transportation and public programs and projects related to transportation.
- ❖ The plan shall provide for an appropriate transit system for the region.
- ❖ The plan shall give consideration to:
 - Completion of the Loop Road in the states of Nevada and California.
 - Utilization of a light rail mass transit system in the South Shore area.
 - Utilization of a transit terminal in the Kingsbury Grade area.
 - Achieve vehicle miles reductions per identified Regional Plan milestones.

TRPA establishes transportation and land use policy direction by virtue of the Code of Ordinances, Goals and Policies, Plan Area Statements, and Local Area Plans. Additionally, TRPA administers the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), a regional investment program focused on the restoration and protection of Lake Tahoe. The EIP is a programmatic approach to implementing transportation improvements, in addition to other resource area investments.

In addition to the responsibilities under the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact, TRPA is recognized as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) in California. As the RTPA, TRPA is charged with

developing a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to account for California state transportation funding programs.

The Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO) authority was established in 1999 by the Governors of California and Nevada by designating the Lake Tahoe MPO under authority provided in federal regulations. TRPA's MPO role is primarily a transportation planning and financial programming role. The three primary products required of an MPO by federal rule are a Regional Transportation Plan, Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and an Overall Work Program (OWP). The TMPO Governing Board is comprised of the 15-member TRPA Governing Board, with the addition of a voting representative of the United States Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (USFS-LTBMU).

The integration of the three authorities listed above is supported by the various activities and programs carried out by TRPA's Transportation Planning Program. The ability to integrate land use and transportation planning at a regional level, while considering impacts on implementation efforts, is a prime focus of this program and supports federal and state planning guidance.