



CHAPTER 6

MOVING FORWARD

Moving Forward

The regional transportation plan moves transportation in the region forward by addressing demand for travel and building a transportation system with greater travel options that provide equitable access to everyone, including the most vulnerable in Tahoe's Priority Communities. It also reduces transportation's harmful impacts to the environment, strengthens community revitalization and housing initiatives, and improves overall mobility.

Addressing demand for travel begins at the project level with private development helping to improve mobility in Tahoe, reduce regional VMT to attain and maintain TRPA's VMT threshold, reduce mobile source GHG emissions, and reduce roadway congestion. TRPA and its many partners will further reduce demand on Tahoe's roadways by

creating travel options that are more attractive than the personal automobile, such as making transit free and easy to use, and making the passage of transit vehicles a priority on roadways by letting buses through first at traffic signals and dedicating bus-only lanes on busy travel corridors.

Ensuring real and equitable access is achieved by delivering the most impactful projects and programs in the most efficient manner, including expanded transit service, completing the Tahoe Trail, and implementing improvements identified in corridor plans. This builds on the momentum created by the Bi-State Consultation.

With continued innovation and broader partnerships, solutions needed to move the Lake Tahoe Region forward are within reach.

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

Implementing the plan will be further advanced by the following concurrent planning efforts:

Better Understanding Tahoe Travel

Working with the Bi-State Tahoe Science Advisory Council, the University of California-Davis Institute of Transportation Studies, and a transportation geographer at the University of Nevada-Reno, TRPA will establish methods for understanding and reporting on Everyday, Discover, and Visit Tahoe travelers to better understand each user and their travel needs. This work will be based on best practices using "Big Data," as well as traditional sources of data, such as the Tahoe Model and traffic counts.

This work will establish new performance measures that provide meaningful ways of counting, tracking, and reporting on visitation and environmental, economic, and demographic metrics for the Tahoe Region.

Addressing Congestion Through Mobility

When viewed in its entirety, the Tahoe Region's transportation system has potential to address traffic congestion, though not by building new roads or additional travel lanes. Instead, strategies rely on reducing congestion by providing ready access to alternative modes of travel on new trails and expanded, free to-the-user transit services, improving traffic signals to prioritize non-auto modes, parking management at popular destinations, real-time travel information, and implementing adaptive corridor management with transit priority and/or reversible travel lanes for mobility and safety.

Efficient and Accelerated Implementation

Transportation corridor planning formalizes coordination across jurisdictions and adds efficiency to transportation project implementation by combining related actions and stretching limited transportation funding further. Seventeen agencies committed to the corridor planning framework through the 2019 Bi-State

Consultation on Transportation, ensuring that a collaborative approach to transportation planning will continue and funding corridor improvements remains a regional priority.

Transportation Demand Management

Travel demand management (TDM) strategies shift travel patterns from the single occupancy automobile to walking, biking, transit, and carpool. They also shift car travel to less busy travel times when there is more capacity on roadways and at recreation sites.

The plan's TDM strategies target each transportation system user group differently, providing appropriate travel options and programs for Everyday, Discover, and Visit Tahoe travelers.

Both the North and South Shore transportation management associations are key partners in developing and implementing the right mix of TDM strategies for Tahoe, and Placer County, California offers opportunity to align TDM approaches at the local and regional level.

Connecting to Land Use and Housing

Connecting transportation to land use and housing is an important approach of the Regional Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan. TRPA is committed to continuing this approach by concentrating development and incentivizing affordable and achievable housing in and near town centers and transit routes, and connecting centers with bicycling, walking, and transit options.

CONCLUSION

Achieving a Tahoe transportation system that is interconnected, inter-regional, and sustainable will require collaboration within and across regions, dedication to the strategies and phases identified in the plan, and smart investment that includes added regional revenue sources to better fund the region's transportation projects and programs.

The RTP analysis found that the region has areas sufficient to house residents from today to 2045.

The Tahoe Living Communities program will continue to advance housing policy that connects to the transportation system.

Climate Resiliency

Transportation is a major source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the Tahoe Region. This plan identifies a variety of strategies to reduce those emissions including electric vehicles, connections to land-use, and expansion of transit and trails.

The RTP estimates that the region will achieve GHG emission reductions mandated in California.

Climate change and its impacts pose significant and growing risks to the safety, reliability, effectiveness, and sustainability of the Tahoe Basin and its transportation network. Many impacts are already occurring, and Lake Tahoe communities need to adapt to become more resilient to these changes.

Preparing for climate change and extreme weather events is an important element of protecting the integrity of Tahoe's transportation system, the investment of taxpayer dollars, and the achievement of the plan's goals. Additionally, TRPA recognizes the broader need to address climate change in a holistic manner that connects to environmental justice.

The regional transportation plan is the blueprint and framework for the Tahoe Region to deliver that vision over the next 25 years. Once complete, Tahoe will truly be a sustainable destination for year-round outdoor recreation with a world-class transportation system that complements local communities and helps preserve the region's unique natural environment.