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STAFF REPORT

Date: June 17, 2020

To: Environmental Improvement Program, Transportation, and Public Outreach Committee

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Briefing on State Route 89 Recreation Corridor Management Plan

Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff will provide an update on the State Route 89 Recreation Corridor Management Plan. The EIP Committee will review the travel option analysis results for the corridor. Staff seeks discussion and direction related to travel analysis results, preferred framework, and next steps. This item is for informational purposes and no action is required.

Project Description/Background:

State Route (SR) 89, a two-lane mountain roadway, is the only access route to many of Lake Tahoe's west-side recreation areas and residential neighborhoods. Emerald Bay, one of California's 36 National Natural Landmark sites, is one of Lake Tahoe's most popular and photographed locations. Almost 12 miles of undeveloped shoreline offer beach access to sites such as Meeks Bay, Sugar Pine Point State Park, Baldwin Beach, Camp Richardson, and Pope Beach. Seven trailheads provide day hike access to waterfalls and alpine lakes as well as backcountry and wilderness access for overnight recreation opportunities.

The SR 89 Recreation Corridor Management Plan boundaries are from West Way just outside the City of South Lake Tahoe and extend to the county line at Tahoma. However, neighboring areas of influence will also be investigated for potential improvements that may assist in improving traffic flow, multi-modal access, and visitor experience.

Plan goals include improved safety, expanded travel choices, enhanced visitor experience, improved use of technology, protection of the environment, and promotion of economic vitality. The strategies, projects, and management changes recommended in the Corridor Plan will help to achieve these goals.

The SR 89 Recreation Corridor Management Plan kicked-off in March 2018. Project Team member organizations include: California Highway Patrol, California Lands Management, California State Parks, Camp Richardson Resort, Caltrans, Cal Fire, El Dorado County, El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, Fallen Leaf Fire Protection District, Meeks Bay Fire Protection District, Tahoe Fund, Washoe Tribe, Federal Highway Administration California Division, TRPA, TTD, and USFS.

The Project Team reviews existing plans and projects; determines data needs including review of consultant analysis; brainstorms projects and program solutions to identify needs; undertakes

agreements for implementation, operations, and maintenance; poses issues for higher-level issue assistance; reviews final planning documents.

Travel Options Analysis:

To create project and plan recommendations, the Project Team has developed a travel options analysis. This analysis looked at four alternatives for the project as well as target mode share splits for each. Alternatives range from current conditions to a car free future. The analysis for each alternative calculates the number of people that would need to be moved by transit, bike, and auto along with capital and operational costs.

The results of this analysis were used to develop a preferred framework for the corridor. The framework includes potential projects, management strategies, and policy changes needed to achieve corridor goals.

The EIP Committee is being asked to provide input and feedback on the travel options analysis and preferred framework.

Contact Information:

For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Devin Middlebrook, Sustainability Program Coordinator at (775) 589-5230 or dmiddlebrook@trpa.org.