

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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NEWS RELEASE

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TRPA GOVERNING BOARD MAY RECONSIDER KINGS BEACH VOTE

Lake Tahoe, Stateline, NV – The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board this month will vote on a motion for reconsideration of its June decision to reject a plan to transform state Route 28 through Kings Beach into a two-lane thoroughfare with sidewalks, bicycle lanes and a center turning lane.

Governing Board member Steven Merrill, appointed to the Board by the California Governor, requested the reconsideration Monday under provisions of the TRPA Rules of Procedure that allow any Governing Board member to seek reconsideration of a Board action.

In his request, Merrill said he was concerned that strategies for minimizing traffic impacts on side streets in Kings Beach were inadequately explained when the project was brought before the Board June 25. He also said he was concerned that lack of support for an alternative project might result in no project at all ultimately being approved.

Both the TRPA Advisory Planning Commission and the Placer County Planning Commission had unanimously endorsed what had been termed the three-lane “hybrid” alternative for the highway, citing improved safety, the economic benefits of a more walkable commercial core, and the environmental benefits that would be derived from a reduction in roadway pavement.

The Governing Board rejected the proposal after hearing many hours of testimony from both sides, including opponents concerned that the project would send too much overflow traffic onto side streets and into neighborhoods. A majority of the Board then approved Board member Bruce Kranz’s motion to advise Placer County to

look at bringing back the four-lane alternative that was analyzed in the environmental documents so that it could be considered at a later date.

The reconsideration request means the Governing Board will, at its July 23 meeting at the North Tahoe Conference Center in Kings Beach, decide whether or not to allow reconsideration. For the two-lane project to be brought back, five California members and a total of nine Board members would have to approve the motion for reconsideration. The project then could be brought back at a later date. If the reconsideration request is rejected, the same three-lane project could not be reheard until June 2009.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency cooperatively leads the effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region now and in the future. For additional information, call Dennis Oliver, 775-589-5235.

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