

RESORT TRIANGLE TRANSPORTATION DISCUSSION GROUP
October 2nd, 2018
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am at the Truckee Town Hall building.

INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and noted their group affiliation.

ATTENDEES

Lizzy Henasey, Tahoe Forest Hospital
Julia Tohlen, TNT/TMA
Kira Smith, TRPA
Nataly Zarate, Kidzone Museum
April Davila, Warmline FRC
Andrew Tarca, FRCOT
Michael Tipoff, Placer County Health & Human Services
John Melrose, Sierra Senior Services
Carolyn Pretzer, Disabled Senior
Jackie Griffin, Tahoe Forest Hospital
Shannon Barter, Caregiver
Kristen Henderson, Caregiver
Wendy Palmer, Caregiver
Alison Schwedner, Community Collaborative
Kimberly Whittington, Choices
Sara Schricte, Community Collaborative
Hilary Bayliss, Placer County Public Health

ON THE PHONE

Aaron Hoyt, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency
Kathleen Hanley, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

1. 2018 Unmet Transit Needs process and Collaborative list

Ms. Schwedner explained the unmet transit needs process and the role the community collaborative plays in the process each year. The new transportation focus group was established to create an ongoing dialogue with community members and transportation planners. The last meeting focused on the discontinuation of the North Tahoe Truckee Transport (NTTT) senior shuttle in June. Next steps from that meeting included researching potential alternative solutions including subsidizing rides for Uber and Lyft.

Mr. Melrose mentioned that Area 4, the group funding the NTTT senior shuttle, reached out to him to let him know that funding that was used to operate the shuttle is still available and may potentially be used to subsidize on-demand ridesharing. The group will meet this month to make that determination. There is only about \$24,000 available in Nevada County, which would not provide enough funding to implement a robust on demand ridesharing program.

Ms. Griffin asked how much money would be needed to fund a complete on demand ridesharing program. This is largely unknown, particularly without a specific operator to estimate costs. If the Area 4 Agency on Aging provides money for the program, Tahoe Forest Hospital may be able to contribute. There are still some concerns regarding where and how the money from Area 4 is used, specifically restrictions crossing over county lines from Placer County to Nevada County.

Additional on-demand transit services for seniors is an unmet need that should be included on the list developed by the Community Collaborative. With the elimination of the NTTT shuttle, there are now gaps in services for seniors accessing medical care outside of the Tahoe Basin. Many seniors who use Medical or Medicare can only access services at the UC Davis medical center and are restricted from accessing services in Reno. Ms. Henasey asked whether Medicare reimburses patients for health-related transportation. Ms. Griffin noted that they tend to reimburse younger disabled patients for transportation, but do not reimburse seniors, so seniors must rely on publicly subsidized transportation options.

Ms. Schwedner provided an overview of the unmet needs list and recommendations provided by the Community Collaborative in 2017:

- Ensure sustainability of specialized transportation programs
- Provide commuter transportation options between Reno and North Tahoe
- Explore options for youth, seniors, and other community members to access group services in hard-to-reach places
- Explore multi-jurisdictional transportation advisory council
- Ensure safe and viable pedestrian options exist during the winter months

Ms. Tohlen and Ms. Smith explained why the NTTT shuttle ceased operations in June. The Transportation District could no longer afford to operate the service. TTD's mobility manager position was eliminated, which reduced TTD's organizational capacity to operate the NTTT program. The grant money from Area 4 that was used to fund the program is still available, but there are currently no vendors willing to operate the service. Additional information regarding the NTTT service discontinuation can be found in the meeting minutes from June located here: <http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/sstac/North%20Shore%20SSTAC%20Meeting%20Minutes%206.5.18.pdf>

Group members expressed frustration with discontinuation of the service – seniors and the Tahoe Forest Hospital were still conducting outreach and attempting to increase ridership on the shuttle.

Ms. Barter spoke about her personal experiences with specialized transportation. Ms. Barter's son is disabled and just started attending Choices programs in Truckee along with many other North Tahoe residents who attend the program. Transportation between North Shore and Truckee is difficult because there are no vendors to provide the service. There are separate ADA paratransit services in Truckee and North Tahoe, but because they are provided by two different counties, they cannot cross county lines. Truckee Transit and Placer County transit are now rebranded as a single service, TART, but are not providing united service due to funding restrictions. They are working on changing this and creating a more robust ADA transit system throughout Placer County and Truckee.

Placer County's ADA service is restricted to the ¾ mile boundary around fixed routes. They are struggling to provide the service right now because there is a shortage of drivers available and they need to prioritize providing basic fixed route transit services.

The unmet transit needs meeting will be held on October 11th at the Truckee North Tahoe Transportation Management Association meeting at Granlibakken at 8am, and a booth will be stationed that same day at the Tahoe City Transit Center between 1 and 5pm. Representatives from the TNT/TMA, TRPA, PCTPA, and Nevada County will be available to answer questions and provide information about transit services. The attached flyer contains additional information about the event.

Ms. Palmer asked what the subscription services referenced on the Placer County ADA pamphlets are and how surveys will be used during the unmet transit needs process to collect and analyze information. Ms. Palmer suggested looking at the number of citizens who apply for eligibility for ADA service against the number who are actually approved. Tahoe Forest Hospital is denied often on behalf of their patients. Ms. Tohlen encouraged Collaborative members to attend the monthly TNT/TMA meetings at Granlibakken – these meetings are held the first Thursday of every month, however October's meeting will be the second Thursday. Community members are always welcome to provide written comments to the group if they cannot attend in person.

Alta is working to vendor van companies to bridge the transportation gap. There are currently 22 people on the North Shore who need transportation services between North Tahoe and Truckee.

NEXT STEPS AS A COLLECTIVE:

1. TRPA will distribute information about the unmet transit needs workshops in North Tahoe. TRPA will also begin collecting survey responses to gather information on unmet transit needs. The survey is available online in English and Spanish:
 - a. English Version: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018TransitNeeds>
 - b. Spanish Version: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018TransitNeedsSpanish>
2. The Collaborative will develop a list of recommendations for the 2018 unmet transit needs meeting. This information will be shared between TRPA, Placer County, Nevada County, and TART.
3. The next meeting will be December 4th, 2018 at 9:00am. Location TBA.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.



TRANSPORTATION IS TRANSFORMATION

HOW CAN PUBLIC TRANSIT MEET YOUR MOBILITY NEEDS?

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency invites you to share your comments on unmet transit needs in the Lake Tahoe Region.

North Tahoe Truckee Transportation Management Association Meeting

Thursday, October 11, 8-10 a.m.
Granlibakken Conference Center
725 Granlibakken Rd.
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Information Booth

Thursday, October 11, 1-5 p.m.
Tahoe City Transit Center
165 W Lake Blvd
Tahoe City, CA 96145



If you are unable to attend, please share your feedback with us:

- Email or call Kira Smith, ksmith@trpa.org or (775) 589-5236
- Take our online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018TransitNeeds>
- Or mail to: TRPA/Transportation Planning • PO Box 5310 • Stateline, NV 89449