



Tahoe Transportation DISTRICT

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FOR US 50/SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROJECT APPROVED

Alternative B, the preferred alternative, approved for final design and construction

Nov. 15, 2018 (*STATELINE, Nev.*) – The Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) today secured approval from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Governing Board on the final joint environmental document for the US 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project. The final Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS/EIS) is available online at www.TahoeTransportation.org/us50. Printed copies can be viewed during normal business hours at the TTD and TRPA offices, South Lake Tahoe Public Library, and Zephyr Cove Library.

“The community support and engagement in helping shape the US 50 project has been very encouraging,” said Carl Hasty, district manager of the Tahoe Transportation District. “We look forward to continued collaboration with the community as we move forward to build new affordable housing and create a complete, multimodal street environment, as envisioned in community plans.”

Consistent with regional transportation and local land use plans, the US 50 project shifts through traffic away from the main street area to achieve a pedestrian, bike, and transit-oriented corridor. Transit-focused circulation around the tourist core aims to enhance the businesses environment and visitor experience, while also benefiting the environment. A Main Street Management Plan that refines the vision for the new local street will be part of the project design process and will be shaped by adjacent property stakeholders, the public, and management agencies.

The US 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project is a bi-state community development project that realizes the redevelopment vision that has been in community plans for over 40 years. The project aims to evolve Lake Tahoe’s transportation system and create a local main street where people can access mountain and lake amenities, lodging, retail, and entertainment by foot, bike, or transit. The US 50 project incorporates expanded transportation options to calm traffic alongside neighborhood improvements, including a new pedestrian bridge, bike lanes, trail connections, a park, green space, street lighting, signage, noise mitigation, and more.

The US 50 project also includes elements to improve access to local businesses, and the updated project economic outlook reflects enhanced revenue expectations of up to \$79.1 million annually from increased spending on lodging and retail. Additional investments in the project area are also furthering momentum to address the South Shore’s workforce housing shortage. TTD has

increased the affordable/workforce housing provided through the project to 109 units, 102 of which are deed-restricted, low income and seven moderate-income, exceeding the 76 replacement units required as project mitigation. TTD has been collaborating with community partners to encourage additional interest in the South Shore's transit-oriented development areas to meet its goal of 200 total new affordable housing units.

“The US 50 project is much more than a road realignment,” added Hasty. “This project will truly revitalize the South Shore with improved economic opportunities, enhanced mobility, and better access to area recreation. Moreover, transit system expansions are expected to result in a 20 to 40 percent reduction in automobile trips, which will help lessen traffic congestion and benefit Lake Tahoe's air and water quality.”

TTD has identified transit system improvements as a critical component to improving the region's air and water quality because more than 70 percent of the pollutants impacting Lake Tahoe's clarity come from the transportation system and built environment. The US 50 project aims to reduce environmental impacts by creating the single largest mobility hub in the Lake Tahoe Region, a focal point of connectivity where transit stations and mixed-use development converge to seamlessly integrate different modes of transit. Mobility hubs help reduce pollutants from vehicle emissions by providing more transportation options, while making travel safer and more convenient.

TTD will begin the planning process for the US 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project in January 2019 on Alternative B, the locally preferred alternative. At the Nov. 9, 2018 meeting, the TTD Board of Directors approved Alternative B for final design and construction. TTD prepared and hosted more than 150 public meetings and presented to TRPA, Douglas County, and the City of South Lake Tahoe on the project to receive feedback and answer questions. Notices regarding additional opportunities for public comment will be posted on TTD's website at www.TahoeTransportation.org/us50.

TTD and TRPA are the co-lead agencies on the US 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT).

Specific questions, inquiries and suggestions regarding the US 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project can be emailed to suggestions@us50revitalization.org.

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About Tahoe Transportation District

The Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) is a bi-state agency responsible for the management and implementation of safe, environmentally sound, multi-modal transportation projects and programs in the Lake Tahoe Region, including transit operations. TTD leads multi-jurisdictional infrastructure projects to make travel safer, improve access to recreation, and reduce traffic congestion and private car use. TTD focuses on transit's pivotal role in improving air and water quality because more than 70 percent of the pollutants impacting Lake Tahoe's clarity come from transportation system and built environment run-off. TTD has delivered numerous projects to help reduce environmental impacts and address the high demand residents and visitors place on the region's transportation infrastructure, including transit solutions, roadway and safety enhancements, water quality improvements, and pedestrian/cyclist paths. For more information, please visit www.TahoeTransportation.org.

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