

**TAHOE TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT  
BUDGET FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
April 9, 2021**

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Cindy Gustafson, Placer County  
Steve Teshara, SS-TMA

**Committee Members Absent:**

Lucia Maloney, Carson City, Chair

**Others in Attendance:**

Carl Hasty, Tahoe Transportation District  
Joanie Schmitt, Tahoe Transportation District  
Daniella Hughes, Tahoe Transportation District  
Judi Allen, Tahoe Transportation District

**I. PUBLIC INTEREST COMMENTS**

No public interest comments were made.

**II. RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2021**

Ms. Gustafson made the motion to recommend approval of the minutes of March 12, 2021. Mr. Teshara seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*(All Items for Possible Recommendation)*

A. Review and Acceptance of the District's Financial Statement of Operations through January 31, 2021

Ms. Schmitt reviewed this item.

Ms. Gustafson made the motion to recommend acceptance of the Financial Statement of Operations for the first seven months of fiscal year 2021, ending January 31, 2021. Mr. Teshara seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of the Modified Rate Structure for the Park Tahoe Parking Management Program for Nevada State Route 28 East Shore Trailhead Parking Lots

Ms. Hughes reviewed this item.

Mr. Teshara made the motion to recommend approval of the modified rate structure for the Park Tahoe parking management program for Nevada State Route 28 East Shore Trailhead parking lots. Ms. Gustafson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Approve Award of Contract to Passport Labs, Inc. for the Non-Compliance Software System as a Service as part of the Park Tahoe Parking Management Program for Nevada State Route 28 Tahoe East Shore Trailhead Parking Lots

Ms. Hughes reviewed this item.

Ms. Gustafson made the motion to recommend approval of the contract award to Passport Labs, Inc. for the non-compliance software system as a service as part of the Park Tahoe parking management program for Nevada State Route 28 Tahoe East Shore Trailhead parking lots. Mr. Teshara seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. PUBLIC INTEREST COMMENTS**

No public interest comments were made.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**TAHOE TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT / COMMISSION  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 9, 2021**

**TTD/C Board Members in Attendance:**

Cindy Gustafson, Placer County, Chair  
Cody Bass, City of South Lake Tahoe  
Brian Bigley, Member at Large  
Mark Bruce, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Appointee  
Andy Chapman, TNT-TMA  
Kyle Davis, Nevada Governor Appointee  
Sherry Hao, California Governor Appointee  
Alexis Hill, Washoe County  
Lori Bagwell, Carson City  
Sue Novasel, El Dorado County  
Wesley Rice, Douglas County  
Steve Teshara, SS-TMA  
Sondra Rosenberg, NDOT  
Alex Fong, Caltrans

**TTD/C Board Members Absent:**

Mike Gabor, U.S. Forest Service  
Serrell Smokey, Washoe Tribe

**Others in Attendance:**

Carl Hasty, Tahoe Transportation District  
Joanie Schmitt, Tahoe Transportation District  
Danielle Hughes, Tahoe Transportation District  
George Fink, Tahoe Transportation District  
Nick Haven, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency  
Michelle Glickert, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency  
Judi Allen, Tahoe Transportation District  
Sergio Rudin, Legal Counsel

**I. TAHOE TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT AND TAHOE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL**

**A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

The meeting of the Tahoe Transportation District and Tahoe Transportation Commission was called to order by Chair Gustafson at 11:08 a.m., via GoToWebinar. Roll call was taken and it was determined a quorum was in attendance for the TTD/TTC. Ms. Gustafson introduced the new Board members.

**B. Approval of TTD/TTC Agenda of April 9, 2021**

Motion/second by Mr. Teshara/Ms. Novasel to approve the TTD/TTC agenda for today's meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Approval of TTD Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2021  
Motion/Second by Mr. Chapman/Ms. Hill to approve the TTD minutes, as amended by Ms. Hao. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. PUBLIC INTEREST COMMENTS**

No public interest comments were made.

Mr. Rice arrived at 11:18 a.m.

**III. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION OF MARCH 12, 2021**

Mr. Rudin reported there was no reportable action taken during the closed session.

**IV. BUDGET FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Teshara reported the committee reviewed the items and recommended the requested actions of the consent items.

**V. TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTEE REPORT**

Mr. Teshara reported they will be meeting next Wednesday with a heavy agenda with VMT threshold change, fee structure associated with the change and amendments to the goals and policies in the Regional Plan and the Code Chapters.

Ms. Rosenberg arrived at 11:30 a.m.

**VI. ADJOURN AS THE TTD AND RECONVENE AS TTC**

**VII. TAHOE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (TTC) BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. Recommendation of Approval for 2020 Linking Tahoe: Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy to the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization Governing Board

Ms. Glickert reviewed this item and gave a presentation. Mr. Bass stated that railway should be included in the plan. Ms. Hill asked how the increase in users when the trails are connected would be handled. Ms. Glickert noted that transit and parking management would be included in the planning with the trails. Mr. Teshara stated his appreciation of staff on their work on the plan.

Public Comment:

Carole Black commented on her submitted comments which are included with the minutes.

Action Requested: For Possible Action

Mr. Davis made the motion to recommend approval of the 2020 Linking Tahoe: Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

to the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization Governing Board. Ms. Hao seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Mr. Bass voting no.

B. Conduct a Public Hearing and Recommend Approval of the 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment No. 1 to the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization Governing Board

Ms. Glickert reviewed this item and gave a presentation.

Public Comment:

Carole Black commented on her submitted comments which are included with the minutes.

Action Requested: For Possible Action

Ms. Hill made the motion to recommend approval of the 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment No. 1 to the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization Governing Board. Ms. Bagwell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Presentation of Draft Fiscal Year 2021/22 Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Transportation Planning Overall Work Program and Public Hearing

Ms. Glickert reviewed this item and gave a presentation.

A public hearing was held and no comments were submitted.

Action Requested: For Possible Action

No action was taken.

**VIII. ADJOURN AS TTC AND RECONVENE AS TTD**

**IX. TAHOE TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT (TTD) CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Review and Acceptance of the District's Financial Statement of Operations through January 31, 2021
- B. Approval of the Modified Rate Structure for the Park Tahoe Parking Management Program for Nevada State Route 28 East Shore Trailhead Parking Lots
- C. Approve Award of Contract to Passport Labs, Inc. for the Non-Compliance Software System as a Service as part of the Park Tahoe Parking Management Program for Nevada State Route 28 Tahoe East Shore Trailhead Parking Lots

Mr. Bass motioned to approve the consent calendar, Ms. Novasel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. TAHOE TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT (TTD) BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. Authorize District Manager to Enter into Agreement with TRPA to Select and Contract with a Professional Services Organization to Assist with Workplan Tasks to Collaboratively Develop Sustained Transportation Revenue Sources**

Mr. Hasty reviewed this item. Mr. Davis asked who would hold the contract. Mr. Hasty responded it would probably be TRPA, as a joint funded activity. Mr. Davis asked what would not be funded with the dollars being used for this project. Mr. Hasty noted the STBG funds being used for this could be used to another project phase, however it is not enough to complete a project. Mr. Bass asked how this is different from the \$1.2 million spent for the OneTahoe effort. Mr. Hasty responded this is a continuation of that work now included in the sustained revenue workplan, and to look at what has been done in other regions. Ms. Hill asked if there would be additional data collection by the consultant. Mr. Haven responded that TRPA has additional current information available to provide to the consultant. Mr. Teshara stated he is a strong advocate for this project and it is well warranted at this time.

Mr. Rice left at 12:28 p.m.

Action Requested: For Possible Action

Mr. Chapman made the motion to authorize the District Manager to enter into an agreement with TRPA to select and contract with a professional services organization to assist with workplan development. Mr. Teshara seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Mr. Bass voting no.

**B. Informational Presentation and Discussion on a Comparative Transit Peer Review and Status Update on TTD's 2019 Transit Plan**

Mr. Fink reviewed this item and introduced Mike Steele. Mr. Steele reviewed his peer review report of TTD's transit system with a presentation. Mr. Davis asked why TART wasn't included in the peer review. Mr. Steele replied they wanted to compare areas that were diverse geographically of similar situations and they wanted to rely on the National Transit Database and TART's data is included in Placer County's overall transit information. Mr. Chapman asked if the City of South Lake Tahoe or El Dorado County contribute any funding to transit. Ms. Novasel stated the county receives very limited amounts of transit occupancy taxes and does not contribute to transit. Mr. Bass stated the City does not contribute funding to transit. Ms. Hao suggested considering a reoccurring peer review, either in-house or external. Mr. Bruce asked about an updated version of the report with more current data. Mr. Hasty noted the report is a tool and a benchmark analysis. Ms. Novasel stated she feels the need to address transit for the visitors.

Ms. Novasel left at 1:55 p.m.

Action Requested: Informational Only

C. Informational Update on Tahoe Transportation District Capital Improvement Program Projects

Ms. Hughes reviewed this item.

Action Requested: Informational Only

**XI. DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Hasty reported the Nevada Legislature's Growth and Infrastructure Committee heard two resolutions. The first is related to Senate Concurrent Resolution #8 (SCR8) supporting the identification of key transportation priorities for Lake Tahoe and Senate resolution 12 supporting the priority of timely completion of the Tahoe East Shore Trail extension and urging Congress to fund the project with federal funds. Both were heard and passed out of committee to the Senate and Assembly. Mr. Hasty added an application was submitted for earmark funds to Congresswoman Titus for SR 28 and one to Congressman Amodei, also for SR 28. Mr. Hasty also noted there will be a workshop on TTD's financial history and upcoming five-year projections, next year's work program and his review at next month's meeting.

**XII. BOARD, COMMISSION MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS**

Ms. Gustafson noted Ms. Novasel will be filling in for Ms. Maloney to complete Mr. Hasty's review, staff will look for another day and time for the Board meetings, and referred the Board to the Governance Policies, including items 2.0 and 2.3.4.

Ms. Hill asked if it would help the Board meetings to have additional sub-committees.

Ms. Rosenberg commented AB 413 was being reviewed in the Legislature, which would require the Nevada Department of Transportation to convene a working group and conduct a study on sustainable transportation funding as a statewide effort.

Ms. Hao asked if the SR28 parking initiative is a pilot that would inform a regional-wide parking system. Mr. Hasty stated yes, it is.

Mr. Chapman updated the Board that the Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitor Bureau's Board approved \$165,000 for a 69-day micro shuttle transit pilot program starting July 1 through Labor Day and thanked Mr. Hasty for his participation.

Mr. Bass requested the future rail idea be added to an agenda.

Mr. Teshara noted the South and North Shore Transportation Management Associations collaborated on a letter of support for the request submitted to Congressman Amodei for SR 28. Mr. Teshara also announced this meeting

is his last as the primary representative for the South Shore Transportation Management Association.

**XIII. PUBLIC INTEREST COMMENTS**

No public interest comments were made.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Judi Allen  
Executive Assistant  
Clerk to the Board  
Tahoe Transportation District*

*(The above meeting was recorded in its entirety, anyone wishing to listen to the aforementioned tapes, please contact Judi Allen, Clerk to the Board, (775) 589-5502.)*



**Judi Allen**

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**Subject:** FW: From Steve Teshara @ Sustainable Community Advocates

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**From:** Steve Teshara <[steveteshara@gmail.com](mailto:steveteshara@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 08, 2021 6:13 AM

**To:** Judy Weber <[jweber@trpa.gov](mailto:jweber@trpa.gov)>

**Cc:** Cindy.Gustafson <[cindygustafson@placer.ca.gov](mailto:cindygustafson@placer.ca.gov)>; Carl Hasty <[chasty@tahoetransportation.org](mailto:chasty@tahoetransportation.org)>; Christine Maley-Grubl <[christinetnttma@gmail.com](mailto:christinetnttma@gmail.com)>; Alexis Hill <[AHill@washoecounty.us](mailto:AHill@washoecounty.us)>; Andy Chapman <[andy@gotahoe.com](mailto:andy@gotahoe.com)>

**Subject:** From Steve Teshara @ Sustainable Community Advocates

**Dear Judy:** This email conveys the support of Sustainable Community Advocates (SCA) for Amendment No. 1 to the 2021 Lake Tahoe Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP).

Based on our review, this amendment includes two Existing Project Updates, as follows:

1) Updates the Project Title (now) the Tahoe Mobility Hub - Washoe County and Description (now): Protective Acquisition, site alternative analysis, and site selection for a mobility hub within the Washoe County Tahoe Area Plan; also, potential demolition of existing site buildings.

2) Updates the funding package for the Nevada SR 28 Central Corridor Project - Sand Harbor to Spooner - Parking and Safety Improvements, as follows:

Adds Nevada TAP MPO funds \$239,000 PE 20/21; NV TAP State funds \$691,000 PE 20/21, Tahoe Fund funds \$36,000 PE 20/21 and \$250,000 CON 20/21; Reduces Washoe County Bond funds from \$76,000 to \$30,000 PE 20/21; for a total project cost of \$13,244,000.

SCA fully supports the proposed FTIP 2021 Amendment No. 1.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit our comments.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Teshara  
Owner/Principal  
Sustainable Community Advocates

April 8, 2021

Tahoe Transportation District

Board of Directors

P.O. Box 499, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448

Submitted via email - [jallen@tahoetransportation.org](mailto:jallen@tahoetransportation.org) and [cindygustafson@placer.ca.gov](mailto:cindygustafson@placer.ca.gov)

Re: Comparative Transit Peer Review and Status Update on TTD's 2019 Transit Plan

Chairperson Gustafson and Board of Directors,

The League to Save Lake Tahoe (League) is providing these comments on the Comparative Transit Peer Review and Status Update on the Tahoe Transportation District's (TTD) 2019 Transit Plan agenda item on the April 9, 2021 TTD Board meeting.

The League is dedicated to protecting and restoring the environmental health, sustainability, and scenic beauty of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The leading threat to Lake Tahoe's famous clarity is fine sediment pollution running off urban landscapes, especially roads. Vehicle traffic exacerbates fine sediment pollution by deteriorating roads and crushing winter traction material. Internal combustion vehicles also emit nitrogen oxides into the atmosphere, which spur algae growth when deposited into Lake Tahoe. In connection with our mission, we advocate for an improved transportation system to reduce the environmental impact on the Basin.

We preface these comments with a sincere recognition of the challenges TTD is facing. We understand that the District is facing significant financial and workforce hardships, has a longstanding difficulty meeting federal farebox revenue/local match requirements, and recognize that both of these challenges have been compounded by the COVID pandemic. We appreciate the staff's efforts to identify solutions to these difficult problems. However, we have substantial feedback on the methods and results of the Peer Review Report and caution how this information is used to inform decisions.

### **Summary**

The Peer Review Report (Report) is based on outdated data from 2017. This data does not at all reflect the current conditions. Transit service has substantially changed since 2017 which should have been reflected. Further, the Report does not provide justification that the Peer Review Groups selected were chosen based on their similarities to TTD's past or current service, or how they were selected as "peers." We recognize that this is an informational item for discussion and no decisions are requested, but ***we would like the Board to direct staff to conduct an updated Peer Review in order to answer the question "Is TTD's transit system currently operating efficiently?"***

Also included in this agenda item, ***we would like the Board to specifically discuss the "Late Night Lifeline Service"*** included in the Status Update on TTD's 2019 Transit Plan and direct staff to implement the service if the previously identified funding is still available, or with COVID funding received in 2020. Finally, related to COVID funding in this agenda item, ***we recommend TTD consider using COVID funds for workforce development and retention.***

### **Peer Review of TTD's Transit System**

#### **The Report Relies on Transit Data From 2017 that Does Not Reflect Current Conditions**

The results of the Peer Review are based on 2017 data. While this was the most recent publicly available data when the Peer Review was conducted, the data does not reflect TTD's major service cuts in 2018, including elimination of the Heavenly ski service, which accounted for about 50% of annual ridership in 2017. These conditions raise two questions:

- Why was this report only provided to the TTD Board and the public in January of 2021 as part of the OneTahoe Final Report even though it was completed in May 2019? There is no indication that the Peer Review was used to inform the 2019 Transit Plan even though the Report was completed. The Report and underlying data would have been more useful at that point in time.
- Why does the Peer Review Report and the Staff Report for the April 9 agenda item omit that TTD's transit service is wildly different, even in 2019, than it was in 2017? This has not been made clear to the Board or the public. There are now two years of newer publicly available data. Fiscal Year 2019 is most relevant because it captures TTD's service after the 2019 cuts and before the COVID pandemic. Based on a preliminary review of TTD's transit service trends based on the publicly available data,<sup>1</sup> TTD's service hours decreased by 30%, but the total operating budget remained the same, which means operating costs per hour increased by 49% between 2017 and 2019.

#### **The Peer Review Group Selection Criteria is Unclear and Should be Vetted by the Board**

The goal of an updated Peer Review is to answer the question "Does you still feel like your system is still operating efficiently"? Unfortunately, this question has not been answered.

The Peer Review Report does not explain how the Report Author selected the transit providers that were compared to TTD. For example, Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transportation (TART) was not included in the comparison even though the staff report states that "TTD shares obvious similarities with TART." There is no discussion of the criteria used for peer group selection. For example, overall transit ridership numbers are not included in the Report. The Report's focus on comparing types and amounts of local funding supporting the Peer Review Groups may provide some insight. The conclusion that "[w]hat stands out in the report is not variations in performance or expenses, but rather the stark disparity in revenue. The level of local funding provided to TTD for supporting transit is among the lowest of those reviewed," is telling. The Report appears predetermined to show that TTD just needs more money, from local/regional sources. A more useful Peer Review would compare TTD to transit providers with similar ridership numbers, types of services (urban, rural, commuter, paratransit), similar budgets and funding source, and geography with the goal of identifying opportunities to improve.

***We would like staff to develop selection criteria for peer review groups and have those approved by the Board before going forward with the peer review. If staff is unable to conduct this analysis and consultant services are preferred, we would like the Board to approve the RFP for services, and approve the consultant selection.***

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Transit Administration's National Transit Database: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/ntd/transit-agency-profiles>

### **State of Transit Program Opportunities**

TTD cites COVID and a lack of local/regional funding sources as limiting the District's ability to implement the 2019 Transit Plan (presented to the Board and public in January 2020). There is one Near-Term Opportunity included in the 2019 Transit Plan and the April 9, 2021 Staff Report with identified funding that would still be useful during COVID: "Late Night Lifeline Service." Staff has characterized this as specifically supporting LTCC evening classes, which are not in-person during COVID. The service as proposed is not only to extend service hours to LTCC, but to provide a two-way "last sweep through town."

This late night service extension would greatly benefit riders employed in the Stateline area and throughout the Highway 50 corridor, many of whom continue to be employed as service workers during the pandemic. At the February 2021 TTD Board meeting, a community group requested that TTD implement this service and at least one Board member requested staff address this at an upcoming meeting.

***We ask the Board to revisit the late night service extension - the need and available funding - at the April 9 meeting, and we encourage TTD to at least implement the "last sweep through town" even if it does not include service to LTCC until classes are back in session.***

### **COVID Funds**


The "COVID-19 Pandemic Transit Support Funds" section of the Staff Report for this item caught the League's attention and raised concern. It is our understanding that the COVID (CARES Act) funds are very specifically supposed to be used to sustain transit service during low ridership as a result of the pandemic. Our questions are why this section is included in the Staff Report, and what TTD would propose to use the funding for if not to support transit due to effects of COVID. It does not seem appropriate to use CARES Act funds for budget shortfalls unrelated to the pandemic.

A potentially appropriate and effective use of COVID funding could be to increase workforce development and retention by raising salaries. Operators' salaries comprise a large portion of TTD's budget shortfall. TTD is not able to recruit Operators at the current starting salary so they are forced to pay existing Operators more per hour plus overtime. The Peer review showed that even at TTD's starting operator pay rate of \$18/hr, it was not competitive in 2017, let alone now with increases in housing costs in and near Tahoe.

***A "competitive compensation analysis" should be conducted and weighed against the existing costs including overtime.***

Thank you for considering our comments and requests and we look forward to the discussion and Board direction during this agenda item at the April 9th Board meeting.

Sincerely,



Gavin Feiger

Senior Land Use Policy Analyst