

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: March 4, 2014

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3C

APPLICANT: Ann Bollinger, Natural Resource Specialist
Karen Mullen, Project Consultant

REQUEST: Presentation and discussion only regarding the Environmental Assessment for the Nevada Stateline to Stateline Shared-Use Path, North Demonstration Project, Incline Village to Sand Harbor. Comments will be submitted to the Tahoe Transportation District.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Just prior to the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, staff invites Commission Members and the public to attend an Open House for the Nevada Stateline to Stateline Bikeway / Shared-Use Path, North Demonstration Project. The Open House will be held March 4th, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the Bonanza Room of the Community Center. It will provide an informal setting to review the project and ask questions. After the Open House, the public is also invited to attend the Parks and Recreation Commission. There will be a PowerPoint presentation on the Environmental Assessment (EA), and comments will be noted and submitted to the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD).

At this time, staff and/or the consultant may clarify questions; however, any comments heard at this or other public hearings on the Draft EA that address environmental issues or the adequacy of the Draft EA will be responded to in writing as part of the Final EA. There will be additional formal public hearings at Douglas County, Washoe County, and the Tahoe Transportation District's (TTD) meetings.

A map showing the two alignments under review and a brief memo has been attached. The entire EA will be available February 27, 2014 on the Tahoe Transportation District website at www.tahoetransportation.org.

Background

The EA for the North Demonstration Project is the current effort towards a complex, 30+ mile path along the east side of Lake Tahoe from stateline-to-stateline. The project was envisioned and \$5 million was approved as part of a statewide voter-approved bond in 2002, known as Question 1. Since then, several reports have been completed including the Opportunities and Constraints Evaluation Report (May 2009) and the Feasibility Study Report (June 2011).

The South Demonstration Project from Stateline, Nevada to Round Hill Pines has not only been evaluated in an EA, but two miles have also been constructed. In 2012, one mile from Kahle Drive to Nevada Beach / Elks Point Road was completed and in 2013, one mile from Nevada Beach / Elks Point Road to Round Hill Pines was completed.

Within the Carson City jurisdiction and the segment from Sand Harbor to Highway 50, the TTD and Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) continue to evaluate the possible co-

location of the sewer export line and the shared-use path. TTD and IVGID have entered into an Interlocal Agreement regarding a fatal flaw analysis and an initial field assessment has been conducted.

In a similar effort, the State Route 28 Corridor Management Plan (CMP) was adopted by the TTD Board of Directors in October 2013. The CMP was in response to concerns about the numerous pedestrian and traffic challenges along State Route 28 and with the goal to streamline traffic flow and enhance the environmental and recreational assets along this National Scenic Byway.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action may be taken. Comments will be submitted to the Tahoe Transportation District.



Memorandum

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
cc: Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Director
From: Ann Bollinger, Natural Resource Specialist
Date: February 25, 2014
Re: Nevada Stateline-to-Stateline Shared-Use Path, North Demonstration Project
Environmental Assessment Public Comment Period

I am apprising you that an item regarding the Nevada Stateline-to-Stateline Shared-Use Path Project will be coming forward to the Parks and Recreation Commission in March 2014. We will be seeking public comment on the environmental review document, an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) purposes, on the North Demonstration Project from Incline Village to Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the NEPA lead agency. Comments on the North Demonstration Project EA will be accepted at any time during the formal 30 +day public review period, which is currently scheduled to extend from February 27, 2014 through April 11, 2014, 5:00p.m.

North Demonstration Project EA:

There will be several public meetings in March to gather public comment on the EA at the local level including Carson City Board of Supervisors (March 20, 2014), Douglas County Board of County Commissioners and a formal public hearing at the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners. We are currently scheduled to hold Open Houses at the Carson City Community Center, The Chateaux in Incline Village and Washoe County Administrative Building in Reno. The final public hearing will be held at the Tahoe Transportation District's April 11, 2014 Board meeting.

EA Document: The Environmental Assessment can be found on the Tahoe Transportation District's web site at www.tahoetransportation.org

Both the TRPA and NEPA environmental review processes mandate that a reasonable range of alternatives be analyzed in the environmental review document. The North Demonstration Project EA meets this requirement by analyzing in detail two alternative shared-use path alignments, and a no project alternative, for the three-mile shared-use path that would extend from Incline Village to Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park.

The meeting before the Carson City Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Supervisors will be an official public hearing whereby oral comments on the adequacy of the EA

will be heard and recorded. Written comments may also be submitted at this meeting. Project staff and/or its consultants will provide a brief presentation on the North Demonstration Project and the EA. Following the presentation, project staff and/or its consultants may answer clarifying questions only. Project staff will not enter into discussion or questions and answers from the Commission or the public. Any comments heard at this or other public hearings on the EA that address environmental issues or the adequacy of the EA will be addressed in the finalization of the EA leading up to project approval and issuance of a Finding of No Significant Effect (FONSE) by TRPA and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by FHWA.

In responding to clarifying questions, it may be that staff responds by saying that will be something that will be responded to as part of refinements to the EA prior to project approval. After clarifying questions from the Commissioners have been answered, we will then request that the Chair open the public hearing to interested stakeholders wanting to provide oral comments.

After all comments are heard, the Commission will close the public hearing and remind individuals that public comments may be submitted in writing to TRPA and FHWA for the duration of the 30 -day public review period. Email comments should be sent to Brian Judge with TRPA at bjudge@trpa.org and/or Nicole Winterton with FHWA at nicole.winterton@dot.gov. Hard copy comments should be mailed to:

TRPA
Attn: Brian Judge
P.O. Box 5310
Stateline, NV 89449

FHWA
Attention: Nicole Winterton
12300 West Dakota Avenue, Suite 280
Lakewood, CO 80288

Comments must be received no later than midnight on the date the comment period closes, currently scheduled to close on April 11, 2014. We request that the Chairman thank the public for their comments and remind them that all comments will be considered as part of the lead agencies project approval process, and that any comments on environmental issues or the adequacy of the EA will be addressed in the finalization of the EA process.

We look forward to obtaining the public input on the EA for the North Demonstration Project and appreciate any input or comments you may have as we proceed through the planning of the North Demonstration Project.