



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 9A

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: April 19, 2021

Staff Contact: Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator, gberggren@carson.org

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Trails Coordinator Report: Activities related to trail projects managed by the Open Space Division, including updates on the SNPLMA grant project, Waterfall Trail/Kings Canyon Trailhead, Prison Hill Recreation Area, Carson River Aquatic Trail, and the Capital to Tahoe Trail. (*Lyndsey Boyer*)

Staff Summary: See below.

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 10 minutes

Capital to Tahoe/Lincoln Bypass Trails

The United States Forest Service (USFS) has been very supportive of this project and they anticipate finalizing review and public scoping for the Lincoln Bypass within the next few weeks. As soon as approval is given, Muscle Powered has a plan to hire a professional trail builder to construct much of the trail and they will utilize volunteers for some of the finish and rock work. We are anticipating that the Lincoln Bypass will be completed by the end of summer. The Lincoln Bypass will connect the Kings Canyon end of the Ash-to-Kings Trail with lower Kings Canyon Road at Longview Drive, effectively “bypassing” the motorized road (Old Lincoln Highway) with single-track trail. USFS approval of the Capital to Tahoe Trail is also expected this year, and construction could begin by fall.

Ash Canyon Trails

We have officially completed a license agreement with the Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL) for several trails in the Ash Canyon area, a segment of the Lakeview RR grade, and a short segment of trail on Prison Hill. The agreement allows for general public use, authorizes maintenance activities, and establishes a process to amend the agreement for construction of new trails.

The license with NDSL, along with the 2020 license from Western Nevada College and acquisition of the Eagle View Open Space, presents us with a long-awaited opportunity to complete authorized/legal single-track trail connections from Carson City to the Ash-to-Kings Trail, and then to the Tahoe Rim Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail! Open Space is working with Muscle Powered on plans for maintenance and minor realignments on these newly acquired trails, and perhaps construction of some segments of new trail, to make these connections a reality this summer.

Kings Canyon Trailhead Status

Construction is expected to begin sometime this summer on the new Kings Canyon Trailhead. This long-awaited and badly needed project will incorporate several design changes that resulted from public and committee comments. Design element changes include one-way access through the parking lot which will reduce the overall footprint and the required excavation, reduction of the

number of parking spaces to 25 vehicles (from 30), relocation of the vault toilet and trailhead to be at the south end of the parking lot where it will be furthest from homes, addition of curb and gutter as well as 'no parking' signs to restrict parking outside of the parking lot, and new driveway connections to adjacent properties. Due to relocation of the trailhead, we will need to construct a short segment of new trail and we will need to decommission a portion of the existing trail.

There will be temporary trail and trailhead closures at various times during the construction period. Press releases, notices and signage will announce these closures.

Prison Hill Non-Motorized Trails

Section 106 Cultural Surveys are now being conducted in multiple locations within the non-motorized portion of Prison Hill. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act is a requirement that was agreed to when Prison Hill was conveyed from the Bureau of Land Management to Carson City in 2015. Some areas have been previously surveyed, like the North Loop for example, but many other areas have not. Once completed, these additional new surveys will enable us to perform maintenance activities, including minor realignments and upgrades, on a number of existing trails. We will also be able to construct several new trails, including better connections from the Koontz TH to the saddle, from the saddle to Dead Truck Canyon, and from the 5th Street Loop Trails to the North Loop.

Prison Hill Motorized Area

We have received concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office for a Section 106 cultural survey for the OHV area. Our partner, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) will, within the next few weeks, begin working on project specs for new roads and trails, drainage improvements, safety enhancements, and signage placements. Utilizing grants from the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Program and the Recreational Trails Program, construction will take place throughout the summer and fall. Updates are posted periodically at www.carson.org/ohv.

Carson River Aquatic Trail

With completion of the safety improvements to the crossing of the intake at the dam we are now able to move forward with exciting enhancements to the Carson River Aquatic Trail. Muscle Powered recently widened a segment of the once very narrow foot trail to the south of the dam, and the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) received a 2021 RTP grant that will include construction of a take-out adjacent to the foot trail just south of the dam. This will enable extension of the Carson River Aquatic Trail upstream into Carson Valley. Boaters will utilize the take-out, widened trail, and the new intake crossing to safely portage around the dam. We will be working closely with CWSD on this project, which will include the placement of uniform signage throughout the length of the Aquatic Trail and the printing of a new map.

"Share the Trail" Campaign - "Go Slow and Say Hello"

Our trails are experiencing growth in usership, both in terms of numbers and the variety of users. These trends have seen a huge spike in the last year due to COVID-19 but are expected to continue even after COVID-19 concerns go away. Along with these trends we are also beginning to see occasional conflict between the various user groups which include hikers, runners, bicycles, horses, strollers, wheelchairs, those with dogs, wildlife viewers, families with children, and more. We see a need to pro-actively manage these issues.

Often times people are simply are not aware of current trail etiquette and practices between user groups and so we are beginning to address this through messaging and education. For example, all our

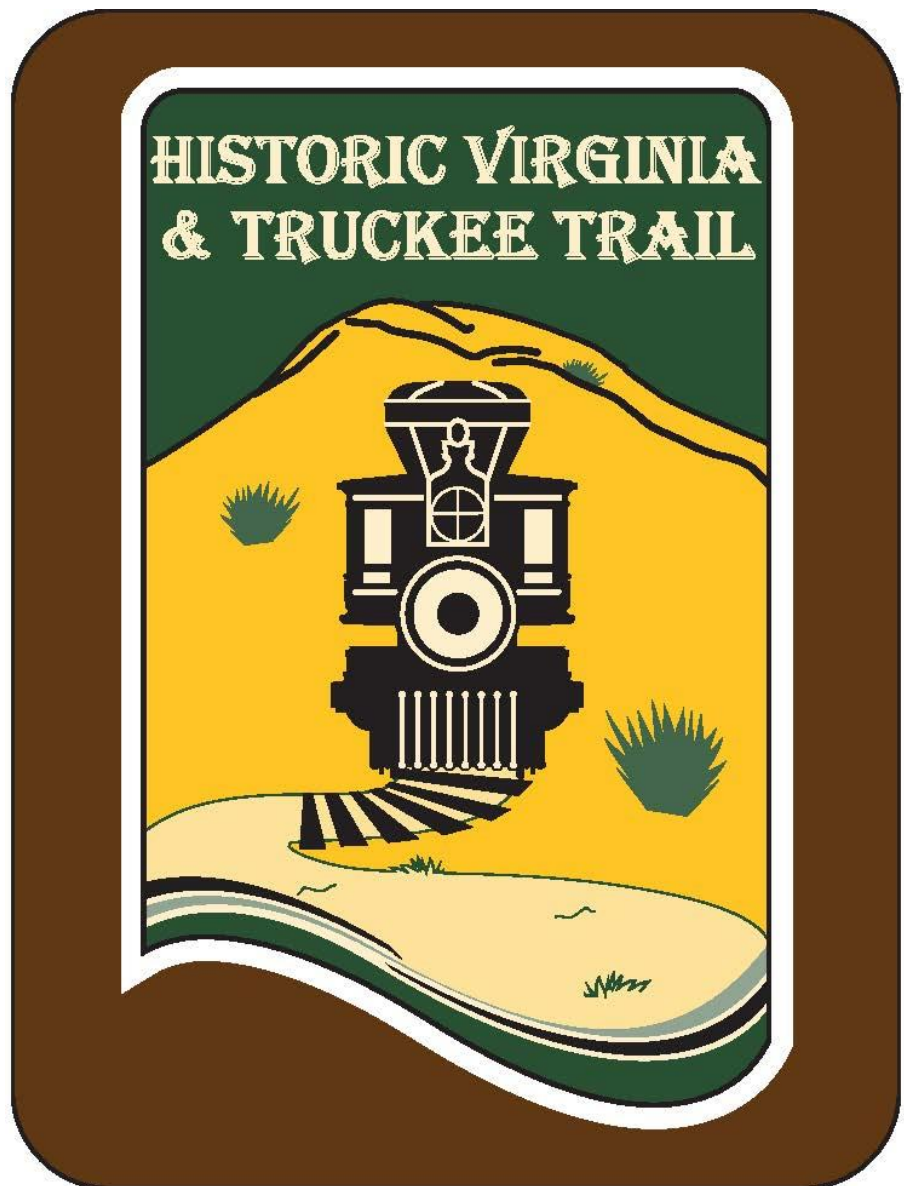
new trailhead signs display the yellow Trail Courtesy diagram and include various “Share the Trail” messages. One of those messages is the slogan “Go Slow and Say Hello”.

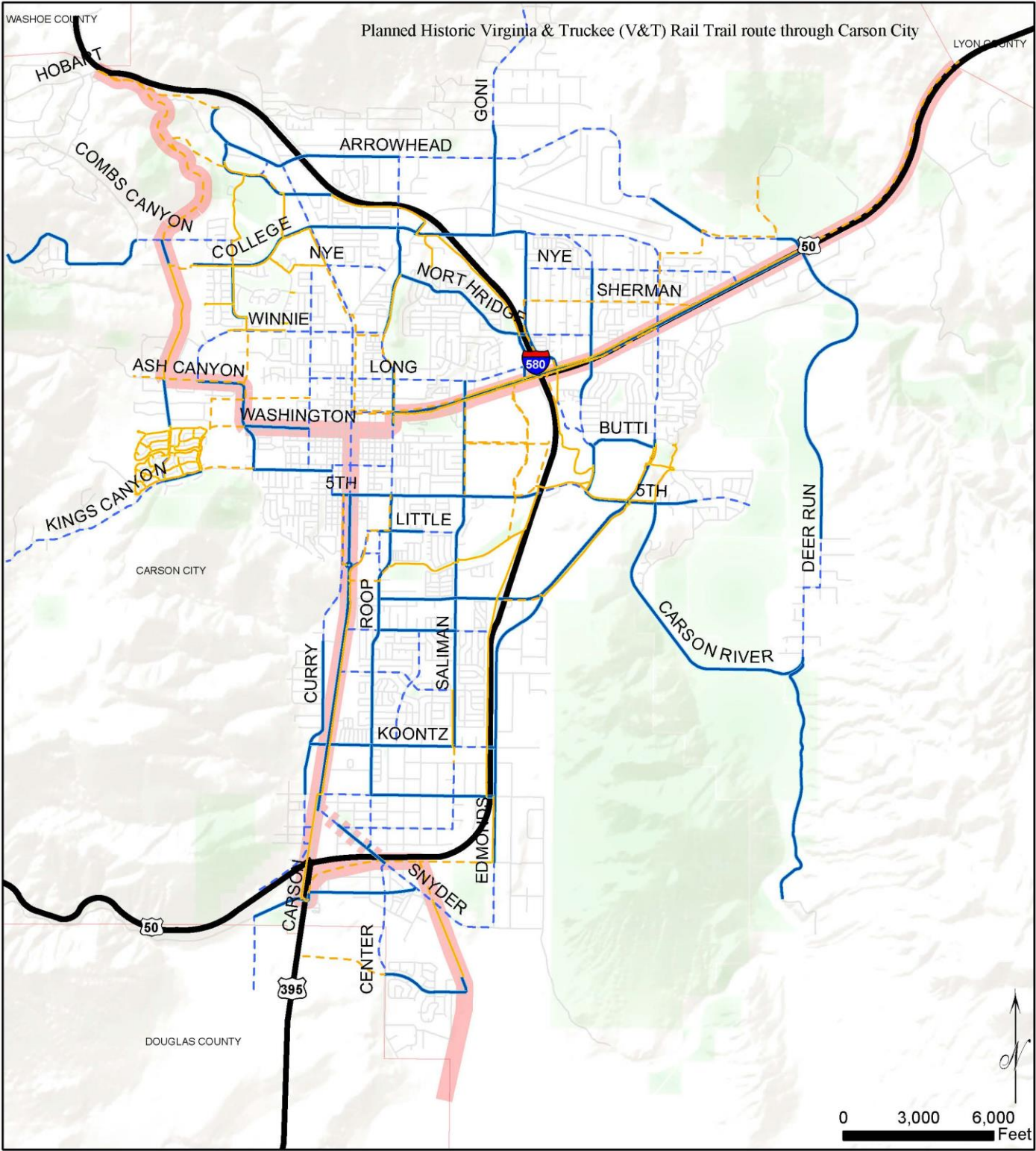
We recently completed a video that shares perspectives from various trail users and shows examples of proper interactions. The Culture and Tourism Authority generously loaned us their videographer Zach Bragdon to do the filming, and the editing was done by our own Ranger Tyler Kerver. Special thank you to our “film stars”, Supervisor Lisa Schuette (trail runner), equestrian Maggie Stillwell, and mountain biker Nathan Harrison and his daughter. A QR code with links to the video will soon be posted at various trailheads, along with various Share the Trail messages. The six-minute film is on the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facebook page and may also be found at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gb-R9UXcFM&t=18s>

Historic V&T Trail Signage

Placement of signage to mark the Historic V&T Trail through Carson City will begin very soon! This is how the sign and logo will appear. A map of the route is attached.





Planned Historic V&T Route

- V&T Main
- V&T Alternate
- On-Street Bike Facilities
- Proposed On-Street Bike Facilities
- Multi-Use Paths or Wide Sidewalk
- Proposed MUP or Wide Sidewalk
- Parks & Open Space
- Carson City Streets

CAMPO Highways

- 395
- 580
- 50

Carson Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
CAMPO