



**MEMORANDUM**  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
**ADMINISTRATION**  
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors    DATE: July 23, 2019  
FROM: Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer  
By: Jennifer Merchant, Deputy County Executive Officer  
SUBJECT: North Lake Tahoe Region— Transportation Plans Implementation

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Receive an informational presentation on North Lake Tahoe-based transportation activities, including new and pilot programs

**BACKGROUND**

Placer County provides and funds a wide array of transportation services in the North Lake Tahoe Region, including operation of the TART bus system, capital projects such as bridge construction and repair, bike trails, sidewalks, road maintenance and snow plowing. In the North Lake Tahoe Region specifically, these projects and services are planned, funded and implemented within a complex, multi-jurisdictional regulatory framework with multiple funding sources and implementation partnerships with local, state and federal agencies, as well as the private sector.

Placer County’s leadership on transportation issues, projects and programs is the result of transportation’s nexus between improving pedestrian and bicycle mobility, reducing impacts on the region’s fragile environment, and to support the tourism economy. Under your board’s leadership and direction the TART systems plan calls for expanding routes and headways, and even contemplates free transit service in future years. The Tahoe Basin Area Plan requires improved non-auto access options to reduce vehicle trips. The Tourism Master Plan, and to an extent the countywide Parks and Trails Master Plan, documents the need for increased transit service to serve employers and visitors, parking lots, a robust regional trail system and other programs. Currently underway is preparation of the Resort Triangle Transportation, which seeks to roll up many regional connectivity and mobility options into a single document.

A presentation on the following pilot programs and new transit operations will provide the board and community with a deeper understanding of the significant implementation efforts that are the result of many years of planning.

Bus on Shoulder Pilot Program: This will assess and design planned permanent future improvements to the infrastructure of SR89 and SR267 in order to install transit only lanes. The project will address traffic congestion on these major arterial routes into North Lake Tahoe by incentivizing and enhancing the existing transit system.

Peak Weekend Crossing Guard Pilot Program: The Department of Public Works developed this pilot program to assess impacts to traffic flow when pedestrian crossings are controlled at busy intersections in Kings Beach and Tahoe City. The program began in June and will conclude in late September 2019. Program monitoring will also compare traffic delays during peak periods without pedestrian crossing management. Monitoring results will inform future programs to improve traffic flow and reduce delays and impacts to roadways during summer months.

Peak Weekend Park and Ride Pilot Programs: Placer County partnered with the Truckee North Tahoe Transportation Management Association, Truckee Tahoe Airport District, Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows, Northstar and the Tahoe Biltmore to provide Park and Ride services during peak winter and summer weekends. Over the Fourth of July week, designated parking was provided at Northstar and at the Tahoe Biltmore in Crystal Bay as well as additional bus service to shuttle people to and from fireworks events in Kings Beach and Tahoe City. This service will be provided in both communities during subsequent weekends this summer. A similar program was implemented last winter and included many of the same partners. Skiers and snowboarders parked in Truckee and took the bus to and from Squaw Valley and Northstar. The Park and Ride program was developed to encourage use of public transit and ease traffic congestion during peak periods.

Mountaineer: The private sector has also engaged to improve transit options in the region. Last year your board approved creation of the Squaw Alpine Transportation Company (SATCo), a Tourist Based Improvement District created to fund operation of a mass micro transit system in the communities of Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows. SATCo contracts with private transit provider Downtowner to provide winter season service. Jennifer Merchant and Drew Conly, Chief of Operations at the Resort at Squaw Creek, who both sit on the SATCo board of directors, will provide an update on the first year of operations.

Zagster Bikes Pilot: The Truckee Tahoe Airport District currently funds Zagster bike-share stations in Truckee and has agreed to expand its existing program to partner with Placer County to bring bike-share to North Lake Tahoe. If approved by your Board next month, TTAD would fund two stations, with Placer funding a third station, for a total fleet of 15 bikes and a duration of three years. The three stations would be split into five locations to create five smaller stations, three in Tahoe City and two in Kings Beach. Introduction of this program provides residents and visitors travel mode choice flexibility to encourage reduced vehicle trips and to utilize the system of Class I multiuse paths (existing and planned) throughout North Lake Tahoe.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact. The transportation programs described are either included in the current County budget, or part of longer term operations and program planning, which would be funded through future grants, fees and budget allocations to projects.