



## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND TRAFFIC ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

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### MEMORANDUM

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DATE: March 16, 2021  
TO: Emilio Balingit, Urban Planning Partners, Inc.  
FROM: Gordon Shaw, PE, LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc.  
RE: Squaw S.N.O.W. Museum – Vehicle Miles Traveled

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This memorandum presents a discussion pertaining to the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis associated with the proposed museum to be located at the existing Squaw Valley Park in the southwest corner of the State Route (SR) 89/Squaw Valley Road intersection. VMT is a computed value which correlates to the degree of an area's reliance on the private automobile for trip-making.

#### **Placer County VMT Screening Criteria**

Placer County recently (November 2020<sup>1</sup>) adopted the *County of Placer Transportation Study Guidelines* (TSG). This document includes VMT screening criteria that is applicable to the proposed project site.

According to the TSG, a project that meets at least one of four screening criteria can be presumed to have a less than significant VMT impact:

- Small Projects
- Affordable Housing
- Local-Serving Non-Residential Development
- Projects in Low VMT-Generating Area

The criteria that is pertinent to the proposed museum is the “Local-Serving Non-Residential Development.” The TSG defines local-serving non-residential projects as projects under

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<sup>1</sup> Placer County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2020-250. Adopted December 1, 2020.

50,000 square feet of floor area that include a range of non-residential, non-employment center uses, including the following uses:

- Library
- Civic center or community center

Although museum is not specifically listed as a land use within the TSG, the Placer County Zoning Code<sup>2</sup> contains a single combined land use definition for libraries and museums, defining them as follows:

*“permanent public or quasi-public facilities generally of a noncommercial nature which are intended to provide historical, cultural, literary, artistic and/or educational displays and information.”*

The proposed facility, in addition to containing exhibit galleries, will contain a library for storage of archives related to winter sports and the 1960 Olympics and a multipurpose room that will be made available to the residents of the Squaw Valley area for community meetings, lectures, and other similar events. These characteristics show that the project substantially meets the definition of library and civic center for the purposes of VMT screening criteria.

Also pertinent to this review is the definition of “local-serving” uses. It can be expected that a majority of visitors to the museum will not be residents of the Tahoe/Truckee area (and are thus not “locals”). However, very few (3 percent) of the vehicle-trips generated by visitors are expected to be from beyond this local area. Instead, the large majority of visitors are those non-residents that are already in the area, such as second-home owners and their guests, as well as overnight visitors. A relatively small museum can be expected to be a secondary destination for visitors that are drawn to the region for skiing or accessing the region in general. As such, the large majority of visitor trips generated by the museum are local trips with both origin and destination within the Truckee/Tahoe region.

As the project is local serving, is an appropriate non-residential land use and is also under 50,000 square feet in floor area, all criteria are met and the project can be presumed to have a less than significant VMT impact. Thus, no further analysis is needed.

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<sup>2</sup> Placer County Code Article 17

