



US 50/SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT RELEASE

Environmental Document available for public review and comment through July 7, 2017

April 21, 2017 (STATELINE, Nev.) – The Tahoe Transportation District, Federal Highway Administration, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency will release the US 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project joint environmental document on Monday, April 24 for public comment. The document includes detailed reports on the five alternatives being evaluated. The public has 75 days to offer input on the adequacy of information on the Environment Impact Statement (NEPA), Environmental Impact Report (CEQA), and Environmental Impact Statement (TRPA). The joint document is located on the TTD website at www.tahoetransportation.org/us50.

Public comments on the technical adequacy of the document can be submitted through July 7, 2017 at 5 p.m. Public comments will be considered when determining the preferred project alternative that best meets the project's purpose and needs, overall goals and objectives. The joint Draft EIS/EIR/EIS is available for viewing at the TTD and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency offices, both located at 128 Market Street, Stateline, NV 89449, the South Lake Tahoe Library and the Zephyr Cove Library, and online at www.tahoetransportation.org/us50 and www.TRPA.org. (California State Clearinghouse # 2011112009, TRPA Project File #EIPC 2016-0008).

Oral comments can be made at the following Public Hearings:

- June 9, 2017 – TTD Board of Directors Meeting
- June 14, 2017 – TRPA Advisory Planning Commission Meeting
- June 28, 2017 – TRPA Governing Board Meeting

To submit written comments:

- Email: info@tahoetransportation.org
- Mail: Russ Nygaard, TTD, PO Box 499, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448

The US 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project is a community development project that addresses many community needs that are consistent with the City of South Lake Tahoe and Douglas County Master Plans, Local Area Plans, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Regional Land Use Plan. Project goals include:

- Addressing the need for affordable housing
- Implementing safer pedestrian and bike routes
- Improving water quality, greenhouse gas reduction, and air quality
- Addressing traffic congestion and neighborhood cut-through traffic
- Increasing transit quality and services
- Enhancing economic development

Five project alternatives have been evaluated; three include the realignment of US Highway 50, a fourth is an elevated pedestrian bridge over the current US Highway 50 alignment in the casino corridor. There is also a no-build option. The realignment would assist in rerouting through traffic and create a vibrant and a safer, walkable commercial downtown area. This area of US Highway 50 at Stateline has become increasingly more congested with vehicles and pedestrians, especially when millions of visitors and vehicles enter the Tahoe Basin during peak winter and summer months

In fact, newly acquired data from AirSage, Inc reveals that about 10 million visitor vehicles travel to Lake Tahoe each year and account for more than 37 million total vehicle trips. This data was purchased from cell phone service providers to determine the number of vehicle trips in and out of the Tahoe Basin. Cell phone data provides the most comprehensive visitor and vehicle trip numbers acquired to date needed for effective transportation planning. A second set of traffic data confirmed these newly acquired numbers, and traffic engineers have statistically validated the cell phone data to an 80 percent confidence level.

The proposed project, alternative B, realigns US Highway 50 near Stateline with four lanes along Lake Parkway East behind Harrah's, MontBleu and the Village Shopping Center (formerly the Crescent V), while converting the artery through the casino core into one lane in each direction with center left turn pockets, with thoroughfares re-connecting at Pioneer Trail in California. A reclassification of US 50 in the casino corridor from federal highway to local street status would provide for local area control and development of an attractive and safer local "Main Street."

Other project elements include expanded pedestrian and gathering areas, solutions to address transportation congestion and traffic conflicts in the state line area, and environmental improvements to enhance Lake Tahoe's health and clarity. A previous study indicated that over 70 percent of the pollutants impacting Lake Tahoe's clarity come from transportation system and developed area run-off.

Since January 2011, the TTD has prepared and hosted over 150 public meetings, met individually with numerous community members, business and property owners and interested constituents to receive feedback and answer questions regarding the project. In addition, TTD has run informational ads in local newspapers and responded via email and phone to public inquiries. TTD has also distributed project notices and updates to various local organizations to assist with informing the community via Facebook and newsletters (i.e., Tahoe Chamber). An independent economic study was conducted and can be viewed at www.tahoetransportation.org/us50.

The Federal Highway Administration – California Division is the lead federal agency for the National Environmental Policy Act; TTD is the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is the responsible lead agency for TRPA

Project approval. Following circulation of the Environmental Document Draft and review of all public comments, a final joint environmental document will be released with a preferred alternative. The lead agencies will then consider the preferred alternative for approval. Housing acquisition and construction of replacement housing will be the initial focus of the project within California.

The Tahoe Transportation District is responsible for the management and implementation of transportation projects and programs in the Tahoe Basin. For more information on the US 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project and the April 24 Public Open House at Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel from 5-7 p.m., visit: www.tahoetransportation.org/us50. Specific questions, inquiries and suggestions can be emailed to suggestions@us50revitalization.org.

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Tahoe Transportation District

The Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) is responsible for the implementation and management of transportation projects and programs in the Tahoe Basin. The organization has facilitated many area safety infrastructure projects, including bicycle paths, roadway improvements, pedestrian thoroughfares, water quality and watershed improvements and public transit solutions.