



BLUEGO: NEW MANAGEMENT INCREASES RIDERSHIP, OPERATES WITHIN BUDGET

Core Services Met While Increased Funding Sources Sought

Feb. 17, 2011 (*South Lake Tahoe, Calif.*) – An overall increase in BlueGo ridership and a transportation system operating within its budget were among the encouraging accomplishments discussed at the recent Tahoe Transportation board of directors meeting.

Latest figures indicate an 8 percent passenger increase in core service routes – most related to South Shore, while facing challenges to maintain established budget parameters. Overall local matching revenue is down compared to same time/prior year as previous funding partners finalize their future participation.

In the meantime, TTD board members reviewed options to maintain core services within a strict budget. Increased revenue via partner participation, as well as efforts to evaluate cost efficiencies and fine tune on-call services and routes will be included for upcoming discussion.

Adhering to Federal Transit Administration regulations, ADA-certified riders will continue to have on-call access to BlueGo via reservations made 24 hours in advance. Route modifications are planned for the next TTD board meeting, March 11, including notices of public hearing.

“The ridership increase is an encouraging sign that reflects the public’s confidence in TTD’s operations system,” said Carl Hasty, district manager, Tahoe Transportation District. “Our responsibility is to provide a reliable public transit service within budget to the South Shore community. Adjusting schedules and improving the overall fare system will result in that.”

The Stateline casinos, all previous funding partners, have yet to finalize their financial participation with transit providers. That issue will likely be resolved following settlement of a lawsuit initiated against individual members of South Tahoe Area Transit Authority, BlueGo’s original management entity, by MV Transportation, then the system’s operator.

While the El Dorado County board of supervisors and the Regional Transportation Planning Agency have both expressed support, funding from the controller’s office to TTD is pending release. The City of South Lake Tahoe was the first partner to step forward with funding. Other private sector partners have also committed to financial support.

“Upon resolution, we’re hopeful that the previous partners will be confident in long term assistance toward the future success of BlueGo,” said Hasty. “They understand the value as their constituents comprise a large percentage of the system’s riders.

“It takes a combination of local funds from private and public sources to match the federal transit funds to make this system work to its fullest potential,” said Hasty.

For information on the Tahoe Transportation District and to review details from the Feb. 11 board meeting, visit www.TahoeTransportation.org or call (775) 589-5500.

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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 including bicycle paths, roadway improvements, pedestrian thoroughfares, water quality and water shed improvements and public transit solutions. www.TahoeTransportation.org

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