



Date: June 18, 2019

To: Members, Tahoe Chamber Board of Directors

Fr: Steve Teshara, CEO

Re: Agenda Action Item -  
Letter of Support for the "One Tahoe" Transportation Funding Initiative

### **Background**

As you recall, Carl Hasty of the Tahoe Transportation District provided the Board with a briefing on the "One Tahoe" Transportation Funding Initiative at your January 17 meeting.

**The lack of adequate funding for transit, transportation, and community mobility options is the single biggest obstacle to the successful implementation of adopted TTD and TRPA transportation plans. Consider the following:**

- In 1980, the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact was revised by the States of California and Nevada and the Federal Government to include language directing alternatives to the automobile in the Lake Tahoe Basin through multi-modal approaches as the solution for addressing travel capacity for reasons of environmental protection and to preserve the public's enjoyment of the region.
- Since 1980, the population in California has grown by more than 16 million, and Nevada's population has increased almost four fold. The population growth in these states is expected to continue into the foreseeable future and Lake Tahoe will continue as a popular visitor destination.
- Recent studies using cutting edge data gathering techniques indicate that close to 10 million visitor vehicles account for more than 75% of Tahoe's total estimated annual vehicle trips, and that day use is 42% of all visitor trips in the Basin. This creates an urban scale demand on Tahoe's largely rural highway and communication systems, overloading our region's infrastructure and threatening Tahoe's environment and the quality of the Tahoe experience.
- For decades now, a considerable funding gap for the support of Tahoe's transportation plans has presented tremendous challenges to the implementation of effective solutions.
- The purpose of the "One Tahoe" funding initiative is to identify viable solutions that address the funding shortfall over the next 20+ years.

As of May 1, 2019, approximately 30 ideas for funding mechanisms had been identified through the One Tahoe process. These ideas came from the public, elected officials, stakeholders, agency staff, members of the consultant team, and others. These ideas are currently being

screened through the first tier of the screening process. Preliminary results from the first tier screening are anticipated sometime next month. For efficiency, tier 2 screening is also underway with a number of the suggested funding mechanisms.

**Requested Chamber Board Action**

To consider and endorse a letter of support for the “One Tahoe” transportation funding initiative.



June 20, 2019

Mr. Carl Hasty  
Tahoe Transportation District  
Mr. Derek Morse  
Morse & Associates

Gentlemen:

At our regularly scheduled meeting of June 20, 2019, the Board of Directors of the Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce voted to formally endorse the "One Tahoe" transportation funding initiative.

Over the years, Tahoe Chamber representatives have been actively engaged in helping to shape the regional transportation plans of the Tahoe Transportation District and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. We recognize there are limits to the amount of federal and state dollars Tahoe can secure and that funding from both of these sources is on a downward trajectory. To the extent federal and state funds are still available, the required "local match" is now significantly higher. Accordingly, we are keenly aware that the development of one or more regional sources of funding specific to the Tahoe region is essential to help implement the projects and programs identified in Tahoe's adopted transportation plans.

We are further aware that TRPA is set to embark on the process of updating its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Without a dedicated local/regional source of funding, the list of projects identified that can be funded will be shorter than ever before.

When it comes to funding, all decisions are challenging. However, we support the One Tahoe process as to the path forward to decision-making.

Thank you for the District's leadership in spearheading the "One Tahoe" initiative.

Sincerely,