

## Summary of June 2022 Cascade to Meeks Trail Study Zoom Stakeholder Informational Sessions

Three stakeholder informational sessions to share the results of the quantitative analysis and ranked trail alignments were held via Zoom on:

June 6, 2022

June 8, 2022

June 16, 2022

A total of 105 participants attended the three meetings and submitted both verbal and written questions and comments.

Information presented:

### 1. Purpose of the Feasibility Study

The Cascade to Meeks Trail Feasibility Study came as a direct result of the Highway 89 Corridor Management Plan. The Corridor Management Plan was completed in 2020 after a 2-year public process that outlined a vision and goals to address everything from traffic congestion to public access along the Highway 89 corridor. One of the priorities identified in the Corridor Management Plan was the desire for a public trail that connected the existing West Shore Tahoe Trail through the Highway 89 corridor to the South Shore Tahoe Trail at Spring Creek. The Cascade to Meeks Trail Feasibility Study is the first step in the process that analyzes the possible routes for the trail while taking into consideration the needs of the trail users, private landowners, constructability, environmental concerns, cost, traffic, and safety. The purpose of the Feasibility Study is to evaluate potential alignments for this continuation of the West Shore Tahoe Trail and determine if one or more of the alignments is feasible to move into the design and environmental phase.

### 2. Feasibility Study Process

In the fall of 2021, trail alignment options were identified, and evaluation criteria were developed. The alignment options and evaluation criteria were shared with stakeholders, agency partners, and the Steering Committee and input was gathered through a series of public meetings, a public survey, along with various in person, phone, and email communications with stakeholders. Based on the input received, alignment options were added, and the evaluation criteria were amended to address specific areas of concern raised by stakeholders. During the spring of 2022, a quantitative analysis utilizing the updated evaluation criteria evaluated and scored the trail alignment options within the six segments of the corridor.

### 3. Results of the Analysis

The results of the quantitative analysis have been posted to the website at [www.westshoretahoetrail.com](http://www.westshoretahoetrail.com) and were presented to the public in a series of three Zoom informational sessions held on June 6, 8 and 16, 2022. The results ranked the trail alignments in each of the six corridor segments based on scoring from application of the evaluation criteria. Stakeholders were invited to ask questions and comment on the trail alignment scoring as part of the informational sessions. Stakeholders were also able to select their preferred trail alignment option through an online survey that was open from June 20 through July 4, 2022.

#### 4. Feasibility Study Next Steps

The results of the quantitative analysis, feedback received during the informational sessions, and the results of the survey will be presented to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will consider the analysis results, survey data, and stakeholder input as part of the process to select an alignment option to be vetted within the feasibility study. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, California State Parks, Caltrans, the US Forest Service, El Dorado County, and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. The study will include developing planning level schematic design, concept renderings for select trail cross sections and amenities (overlooks, rest stops, road crossings), and preliminary cost estimates to determine the feasibility of the selected alignment. The feasibility study report will be made available to agency partners and stakeholders for review and comment.

#### 5. Future Project Phases

Following the completion of the feasibility report, TRPA will work with agency partners to engage in the next phase of the Project (Design, Environmental, and Construction). The next phase will have additional opportunities for stakeholder or public engagement, and includes the following steps:

- Preliminary Design
- Develop Project Description
- Environmental Analysis and Document (CEQA and possibly NEPA)
  - Opportunity for stakeholder and public engagement
- Final Design
  - Opportunity for stakeholder and public engagement
- Permitting
- Construction

#### 6. Major Themes or Topics discussed during the Informational Sessions

- Desire for more map segment detail
- Specific questions about design and construction
- Specific comments about where to locate the trail on Hwy 89
- Questions about scoring reasoning/discrepancy
- Impacts on residential land (noise, litter, etc.)
- Parking

#### 7. Answers to the questions asked both verbally and posted to the Chat during the Informational Sessions have been compiled into one document. That Q & A will be posted to the website when complete.