



DRAFT

May 6, 2020

Town Council
Town of Truckee
10183 Truckee Airport Road
Truckee, California 96161

Re: TSSA-1 Funds Annual Discussion

Dear Honorable Council Members:

This letter confirms Tahoe Donner's receipt of Town of Truckee Engineering Manager Becky Bucar's, March 19, 2020 letter summarizing the Town's proposed use of TSSA-1 funds over the 2019/2020 fiscal year and providing recommendations for budget planning for 2020/2021. This letter also provides the Tahoe Donner Board of Directors' consensus on the Town's recommendations for use of TSSA-1 funds in 2020/2021 and other feedback requested by the Town of Truckee staff.

On April 25, 2020, the Board of Directors received an excellent presentation by Ms. Bucar on the TSSA-1 funds and the Donner Pass Road Parking Study project.

The Board has priorities they would like to see the Town Council consider for immediate and short-term (3-5 year) funding. The following requests result from the Board's priority for emergency preparedness and evacuation, followed by roadway maintenance and safety, and traffic flow.

Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation

Emergency preparedness and increasing the number of Tahoe Donner evacuation routes is of the utmost concern to the Board. The Board supports the Town staff's recommendation to utilize equal portions of TSSA-1 and AB1600 funds to plan and design the third access road identified as the Pioneer Street portion of the Pioneer/Bridge Street to Northwoods Blvd extension. The Board believes a third access road is critical for egress from Tahoe Donner in the event of a wildfire. The Board also urges the council to expedite this project by using other Town funds to meet the public safety needs of our community which constitutes over sixty percent of the homes in Truckee.

The Board is also requesting the Town Council and appropriate other entities reevaluate the use of the Trout Creek Trail as an evacuation route, as well investigate and work towards securing the use of private dirt roads that would serve as emergency evacuation routes out of Tahoe Donner.. The Board supports the use of TSSA-1 funds to increase the number of emergency egress routes for Tahoe Donner.





The Board also supports the use of TSSA-1 funds for Tahoe Donner-specific projects to enhance emergency evacuation tools, such as sirens and evacuation signs.

Regarding the proposed use of TSSA-1 funds for Town emergency evacuation planning, the Board believes that general fund monies should be used for that purpose, just as those funds are used for other Town neighborhoods.

The Board supports the use of TSSA-1 funds for brush and tree removal along roadways in Tahoe Donner.

Drainage Maintenance Project

The Board appreciates the Town's desire to evaluate the drainages in Tahoe Donner but prefers that the limited TSSA-1 funds be used for the higher priority projects related to emergency evacuation.

Donner Lake/Donner Pass Road Parking Study

The Donner Pass Road Traffic Study contains valuable information and the Board appreciates the work of Town staff on the issue. We now all have a deeper understanding of the challenges posed by the parking and usage of the area.

The study makes clear that California State Parks' participation is essential to solve the problem of shoulder parking along Donner Pass Road near the Donner Lake State Park and the Tahoe Donner Marina. The proposed solution would reduce parking along the shoulder by 43%. Without the use of additional land for parking or a change in State Parks' operations, it appears there is no solution that both increases safety and parking in the area.

Further, the survey of the people parking on the shoulder raises the issue of who should fund any of such a project. Until discussions with State Parks are begun and all parties collaboratively work on a solution, Tahoe Donner does not support the use of any TSSA-1 funds to pay for further study or project construction. Moreover, the survey shows that only 30% of the shoulder parkers are visiting the Tahoe Donner Marina. It is the opinion of the Board that TSSA-1 funds should only be used in proportion to the impact caused by Tahoe Donner, not to fund the entire cost of additional study and project construction.

Transportation

The Board continues to believe that the TSSA-1 funds language should not be revised to include funding for transit projects. The Board asks the council to consider unconventional and innovative methods of transit to accomplish the goals of the transportation plan rather than changing the restricted uses of the TSSA-1 funds to achieve Town transportation goals.





Thank you for your efforts to continue to engage the Board and secure its perspective on this matter. This correspondence is expected to be included as information in the Town Council's deliberation on TSSA-1's 2020/20201year. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

CHARLES WU
President

Cc: Town of Truckee Town Engineering Staff

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