



STAFF REPORT: 2025 Trails Implementation Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By Motion:

The Board of Directors accepts the 2025 Trails Implementation Plan as presented in Exhibit A.

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Directors adopted the Tahoe Donner 2022 Trail Master Plan (TMP) on December 16th, 2022. The TMP provided updated and new guidance for trail planning, management, and maintenance. The TMP outlined comprehensive recommendations for the summer trail system, informed by a robust member engagement process. The scope of work for the TMP did not prioritize physical trail improvements or changes in trail management.

Following the board's approval of the TMP, staff were tasked with developing a Trail Implementation Plan (TIP) to prioritize the recommendations outlined in the TMP. Although the actual writing of the TIP was delayed until late 2024, many actions were implemented between the TMP adoption and the present day. Over the last six months, staff have consulted with the TMP consultant and collaborated with the Trails and Open Space Committee (TOS) for their input on the development of the TIP.

This staff report is prepared for the board to consider accepting the TIP (Exhibit A) as a management tool for prioritization, planning, and budgeting purposes.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The TIP translates the TMP's broad recommendations, policy guidelines, management practices, and project concepts into actionable steps and specific project details. The plan has prioritized projects and actions based on user safety, enhancing the trail experience for all user groups, and protecting sensitive areas. As written, the TIP is intended to be a living document that will need updating every one to two years to evolve the trail system and update project planning.

The TIP offers a range of design solutions tailored to each project that TDA plans to implement over the next decade. In addition to the projects developed from the 2022 TMP recommendations, the TIP includes:

- Remaining projects not yet completed from the 2016 5-year Implementation Plan
- External projects outside the TMP that are part of this TIP, such as Euer Valley Phase 2, Donner Lake Rim Trail South, Coyote Crossing Boardwalk and Stream Restoration, Master Shared Stewardship Agreement, and Pines to Mines.
- Internal trail connections, additional opportunities for interpretive, family and day camp friendly nature trails not recognized in the 2022 TMP.

The 2025 TIP document is comprised of three parts:

- (1) recreation management strategies, including a transition from "user preferred" trails to



“designated use” trails and managing 2-track dirt roads differently than trails.

- (2) a 10-year capital project list including new trails, maintaining existing trails, eliminating specific trails, restoration opportunities with associated funding source, designated user, with estimated dates for planning to implementation.
- (3) a detailed appendix section that describes the standards by which trail projects will be implemented.

Proposed capital projects are subject to annual review and approval by the Board of Directors during the annual budget process. Further approvals will follow as determined by TDA policies.

In addition to the TIP document, staff developed two additional multimedia resources to display the ongoing trail changes visually, these include:

- An interactive web map that displays Tahoe Donner’s broad multi-use trail system along with specific designated trails for individual user groups such as hikers, bikers, and equestrians. With the ability to highlight trail closures.
- An interactive web map that displays the 10-year capital trail projects plan with descriptions and associated photos.

The TIP is included as Exhibit A for review, along with all appendices.

OUTREACH:

The Trails and Open Space (TOS) committee established a special working group comprising six members to provide advice and feedback to staff during the TIP development process. The working group reviewed the draft document on April 25 and 30, 2025. The working group reviewed and provided further input on the draft TIP in June.

Following staff working with the TOS working group, the draft TIP document was formally presented to the TOS committee for review on May 4, 2025, and received support for the draft. Since the May TOS committee review, further refinement to the plan has occurred. The TOS will have the opportunity to review and comment on the improvements at a special meeting scheduled for June 25, 2025.

A preview and an update on the TIP were presented in a slide deck to the Board of Directors at the May 23, 2025 Regular Board meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Trail Implementation Plan includes a 10-year list of capital improvement projects, which will be reviewed and approved during the annual budget process.

RECOMMENDATION:

The recommended Board action is as follows:



By Motion:

The Board of Directors accepts the 2025 Trails Implementation Plan as presented in Exhibit A.

Alternative(s) the Board may consider:

1. Providing feedback or requesting additional information from staff for the Board to consider at a future board meeting. Staff anticipate that this may be an option the board takes. There are no negative consequences associated with this option, as plans and actions are being implemented for 2025 with prior board approvals and support.
2. Choose to reject the Trails Implementation Plan. This is not advisable, as implementation plans form the basis of management planning from year to year.

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A: 2025 Trails Implementation Plan – Draft

Staff Report Prepared By: Leslie Loveland, Trail Program Manager

Reviewed By: John Groom, Director of Land Management

Reviewed By: Jon Mitchell, Director of Capital Projects and Facilities

Reviewed By: Annie Rosenfeld, General Manager

Board of Directors Meeting: Friday, June 27, 2025