

**TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR STAFF REPORT**



AGENDA TITLE: Approval of Agreement between Truckee North Tahoe Transportation Management Associations (TNT-TMA) and Truckee Tahoe Airport District (TTAD) for a Regional Air Service Corporation (RASC) Membership Partnership.

MEETING DATE: March 22, 2016

PREPARED BY: Kevin Smith, General Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve attached Funding Agreement between the Truckee Tahoe Airport District and the TNT-TMA to provide necessary resources and support for TNT-TMA to join as a full member of the Regional Air Service Corporation (RASC). Staff proposes a 3 year commitment for \$10,000 per year. The purpose and intent of this Agreement is to provide additional advocacy, benefit, and value to TTAD constituents related to enhanced commercial air service options to and from the Reno Tahoe International Airport (RNO).

DISCUSSION: Staff recommends partnering with TNT-TMA for an additional Board seat on RASC. This concept has been discussed in previous Board Meetings as well as during the FY2017 Budget Workshop. \$10,000 of additional funding was approved in the Budget. It should be noted that 100% of the \$10,000 membership fee is used for airlines incentive programs with the direct aim at increasing air service to RNO and reducing costs. The Airport District currently has 1 seat on the RASC Board. Based on the District's positive experience as a RASC member, along with the visible benefits of increased air service already realized, assisting in the facilitation of a membership for TNT-TMA will further augment our efforts to enhance air service to our region and potentially reduce annoyance. Per the agreement Staff, concludes that the following specific benefits can be realized:

- Additional commercial airline service options to and from RNO provides travel and access benefits to the National Airspace System to our constituents. This is a service offered by the Airport District where all residents can realize public benefit and value.

- Support for the North Lake Tahoe Express Airport Shuttle. The District, along with other partners, provide annual funding for this services. This shuttle service is the only airport shuttle on the North/West Shore and Truckee that provides service to Reno Tahoe Int'l Airport.
- Additional air routes and non-stop destinations may have the effect of reducing some operations to TRK thereby having a positive effect on noise and annoyance mitigation.
- RNO and RASC have a specific concentrated efforts to enhance air service between the LA Basin and Bay Area airports among other areas. These areas are also the two most frequent city/region pairs for TRK. Facilitating more residents/visitors to use convenient airline service may temper operations at TRK.
- The District is a longtime member of TNT-TMA. Enhancing our partnership will further District and TNT-TMA goals to provide quality transportation options and improvements to our region

Our ongoing partnership with TNT-TMA works to find regional transit solutions including our funding for the Highway 267 year round TART bus service as well as providing funding for the North Lake Tahoe Express Airport Shuttle.

WHAT'S NEXT: If approved by the Board, staff will work with the TNT-TMA Board of Directors on final approval of the Funding Agreement. TNT-TMA will be considered for membership by RASC at their May 2017 RASC Board Meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT: The District's annual commitment is \$10,000 per year for 3 years. Either party can end the Agreement at any time. TNT-TMA's current operating budget is \$208,000 per year with 1 ½ full time employees. Without this fiscal assistance and partnership with the District, they would not be able to participate on RASC.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: The District continues to inform constituents regarding the District's efforts to improve air service options to RNO. We will be launching a new link on the District website providing information about commercial air service options to and from RNO. Partnering with TNT-TMA will continue to build and leverage the positive and productive relationship between TNT-TMA and the TTAD who share a common goal of enhancing transportation options to our region.

SAMPLE MOTION(S): I move to approve the Regional Air Serve Corporation (RASC) Funding Agreement between TNT-TMA and TTAD as attached and/or amended.

ATTACHMENTS:

Funding Agreement

TNT-TMA Overview

RNO News Release