



## TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR STAFF REPORT

**AGENDA TITLE:** Request by Placer County and Town of Truckee for Regional Transit Fare Box Subsidy Providing for Free Transit Fares for Nevada and Placer County TART Passengers.

**MEETING DATE:** January 22, 2020

**PREPARED BY:** Kevin Smith, General Manager

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Review and consider staff recommendation to allocate \$153,200 from the Districts budgeted transit funds for the Free Fares on the Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit System Program operated by Placer County and to have staff work with partners to complete final Contracts/Agreements for approval on the consent agenda at the February 26, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. This is a two-year agreement requesting \$153,200 in 2020 and \$168,600 in 2021 for a total of \$321,800.

**DISCUSSION:** At the November 6, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting, during the Budget Discussion the Board reviewed a funding opportunity to work with Placer County and the Town of Truckee to provide a free fare box to the transit user on TART. There was general Board consensus at that meeting to pursue this request. Placer County, the Town of Truckee, and the Truckee North Tahoe Transportation Management Association (TNT-TMA) presented information and answered questions about the request. There was general agreement that a TART free fare box program would have benefit and value to all District constituents by assisting and encouraging use of public transit, enhancing accessibility options, and increasing access and mobility to and from the Truckee Tahoe Airport.

Next steps from the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was to have TART and the Town of Truckee provide a Free Fare Proposal and specific funding request and return to the Board for review and approval. Staff was also directed, as part of the Budget Discussion, to include specific transit funding in the 2020 District. The Budget currently includes \$366,000 for Transit Projects. This is

independent of other funding for the North Lake Tahoe Express (\$3,500 annually) and the Highway 267 Transit funding (\$66,000 annually).

The Town of Truckee and Placer County have prepared the *Free Transit Fare Proposal - Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit (TART) 2020 & 2021* attached to this staff report. This Proposal provides a high level of detail regarding what is proposed, the specific request, funding sources, and background. Staff recommends the Board review this information in preparation for discussion at the meeting. TART and the Town of Truckee will have representatives at the meeting to answer questions. If the Board is in agreement on the request and approves the proposed motion for this item, staff will finalize Contracts/Agreements with partners and include the Agreements on the Consent Agenda for the February 26<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting.

Overall Staff is supportive of this request and recommends approval to the Board.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The FY2020 Budget includes \$366,000 for transit projects. This request would encumber \$153,200 of that funding leaving \$212,800 for other transit projects and ideas in 2020. The District is also committing \$168,600 for the 2021 Budget year.

**SAMPLE MOTION(S):** I move to (approve, continue, deny) allocating \$153,200 in 2020 and \$168,600 in 2021 from the Districts Transit funds for the Free Fares on the Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit System Program operated by Placer County and move to have staff work with partners to complete final Contracts/Agreements for approval on the consent agenda at the February 26, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting based on the following findings:

- The proposed Free Fare program will encourage use of public transit enhancing connectivity to the Airport for all District constituents
- Decreasing the number of vehicles on local roads helps improve traffic congestion and benefits our local environment.
- Supporting this program assists the District in achieving Goals related to regional partnerships, carbon reduction, and transit strategy Goals. (see 2019 Goals attached)

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Free Transit Fare Proposal - Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit (TART) 2020 & 2021

District Goals for 2019