



TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR STAFF REPORT

AGENDA TITLE: Approval of Use of Funds Agreement with 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: March 25, 2020

PREPARED BY: Kevin Smith, General Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Use of Funds Agreement for Free Fares on the Tahoe Truckee Regional Transit System (TART) operated by Placer County and the Town of Truckee (two separate agreements). These are two-year agreements requesting \$153,200 in 2020 and \$168,600 in 2021 for a total of \$321,800. TART will receive \$110,000 for year 2020 and \$121,000 for year 2021. Town of Truckee will receive \$43,200 in year 2020 and \$47,600 in 2021.

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. Staff was also directed, as part of the Budget Discussion, to include specific transit funding in the 2020 Budget. 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).

A more formal presentation was presented at the January 22, 2020 Board Meeting. TART and the Town of Truckee provided a Free Fare Proposal and specific funding request and presented materials to the Board of Directors. The Town of Truckee and Placer County prepared the *Free Transit Fare Proposal - Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit (TART) 2020 & 2021* attached to this staff report. After discussion and deliberation, the Board made the following motion:

Director Stephens motioned to approve allocating \$153,200 in 2020 and \$168,600 in 2021 from the District's Transit funds for the Free Fares on the Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit System Program operated by Placer County and the Town of Truckee 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.

Vice President Hetherington seconded the motion. President O'Dette, Vice President Hetherington, Director Stephens voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

It was discussed that staff would finalize Contracts/Agreements with partners and include the Agreements on the Consent Agenda for a future Board Meeting.

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.

CONSENT MOTION: (Approved by consent) I move to approve the Use of Funds Agreement for Free Fairs on the Tahoe Truckee Regional Transit System (TART) operated by Placer County and the Town of Truckee (two separate agreements).

ATTACHMENTS:

- Use of Funds Agreement for Free Fairs on the Tahoe Truckee Regional Transit System (TART) operated by Placer County
- Funding Agreement for Free Fares on the Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit System Operated by the Town of Truckee.
- January 22, 2020 Staff Report and Attachments.