

Town Council

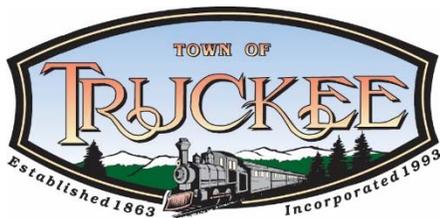
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Denyelle Nishimori, Community Development Director

June 16, 2020

Mr. Kevin Smith
General Manager
Truckee Tahoe Airport District
10356 Truckee Airport Road
Truckee, CA 96161

Re: Funding Support for New Truckee TART Regional Night Service

Dear Kevin,

The Town of Truckee is seeking partner funding over three years for a new regional transit service pilot program. In December 2019, the Town of Truckee implemented a new pilot transit service – Truckee TART Regional Night Service. The lack of night service between Truckee and the Northstar and Squaw Valley resorts has been identified for years as an unmet transit need. Placer County operates night service between North Lake Tahoe and the resorts but until now there was no evening link between the resorts and Truckee.

The Town partnered with Placer County to operate the new regional night service during peak winter and peak summer periods with the County funding 50 percent (\$118,146) of the total estimated cost (\$236,292). This past winter, service was operated from 6:00 P.M. to 11:30 P.M., seven days per week. The service carried 3,724 passenger trips with 874 transfers between the Town and Placer County transit services occurring at the resorts, highlighting the importance of providing the full regional link between North Lake Tahoe and Truckee for our passengers.

Due to the success of the service, the Town plans to operate the new night service during the shoulder seasons (Spring/Fall) as well in an effort to provide a year-round regional link, primarily for our employees. Our transit operator surveyed passengers who used the service this past winter. Based on the information, the majority of riders were employees who were able to take Regional TART to work during the day but had to find other transportation options home in the evening (such as hitchhiking, riding bike, walking, ride from friend or family) prior to the new service.

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Shoulder season service would operate 181 days (80 days in Spring, 101 days in Fall) on hourly headways from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. on the Northstar route and from 6:30 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. on the Squaw Valley route. Shoulder season service is estimated to cost \$185,954, which includes contracted services with the Town transit operator, vehicle fuel, maintenance and insurance, and program management.

The Town of Truckee respectfully requests partner funding of \$92,977 from the Truckee Tahoe Airport District for FY 20/21 shoulder season operations of the new Truckee TART Regional Night Service, with partner funding increasing three percent in FY 21/22 and in FY 22/23 to support the three-year pilot program.

This new service bridges a gap in the regional transportation system by providing a connection that previously did not exist in the evening, and with the additional shoulder season routes will provide year-round regional night service support to our community. The expansion of the night service operating north of the resorts into Truckee will improve and increase regional mobility as the service will not only provide transportation to employment, but also provide access to social and medical services, educational resources, and to basic necessities such as grocery centers. The service helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improves mobility, serves the transit dependent population, and enhances the quality of life for area residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kelly Beede

Kelly Beede
Administrative Analyst II
Transit Division