



## TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

**AGENDA TITLE:**     **ADSB Safety Equipment / Aircraft Modification Partnership  
Truckee Tahoe Soaring Association**

**MEETING DATE:**   **June 24, 2020**

**PREPARED BY:**     **Hardy Bullock, Director of Aviation & Community Services**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve an expenditure not to exceed \$49,401.00 to purchase and install Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADSB) equipment on eight aircraft owned and operated by Truckee Tahoe Soaring Association (TTSA).

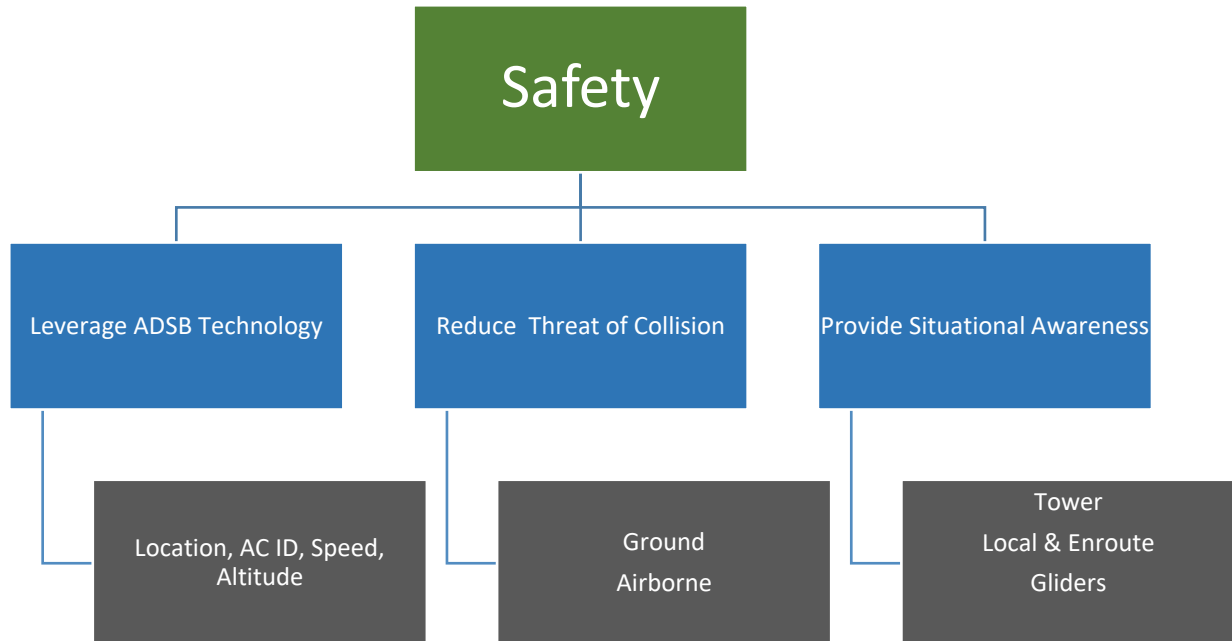
**DISCUSSION:** Staff has included this item on the agenda at the request of Director Stephens. Staff has previously discussed this concept with the Airport Community Advisory Team (ACAT). At that time ACAT took no action on the initiative and declined to fund the equipment purchase and aircraft modifications. ACAT indicated that they would prefer Soar Truckee incur that expense. Soar Truckee has indicated that as a non-profit, they operate on a limited budget and are not able to fund the transponders as much as they would like to.

Based on pending surveillance coverage within the service area of the Truckee Tahoe Airport, both Staff and Director Stephens support the objective of this initiative which is the enhancement of Safety. By leveraging existing ADSB investments the District can provide the Control Tower Staff a higher level of data regarding the location, altitude, speed, and identification of gliders. Pilots operating at or near the airport will benefit as well as aircraft transiting the airspace adjacent to the airport and areas where gliders soar, maneuver and travel. Gliders and lighter than air aircraft are not required to install ADS-B equipment.

TTSA is Truckee Tahoe Airports number one user by volume and has a high impact on the overall capacity of the airspace with 6,574 annual operations in 2019 out of a total of 36,379 total operations, or 18% of the total aircraft traffic. Gliders and tow planes have unique

operating characteristics which make them an ideal candidate for enhanced visibility provided by ADSB use.

Gliders and tow planes circle, fly slowly, loiter, and follow ambient lift conditions. These factors lead TTA aircraft into areas not typically associated with powered flight. ADSB technology will allow controllers, other pilots, and gliders themselves the ability to see and avoid each other to a higher degree thus enhancing safety.



The Truckee Tahoe Airport District has a long record of aircraft modification partnerships to reduce annoyance and enhance safety. The District has contributed to propeller modifications, exhaust modifications, vortex generators, and transponders for powered and glider aircraft associated with rental, training, and sky diving.

The ADSB equipment would be purchased and owned by the District. When the serviceable life of the ADSB equipment was complete or the use agreement had been fulfilled the equipment would be returned, sold, or surplus. The District would impose covenants for repayment, security, default, and misuse of the equipment. These would be officiated through a written use agreement and collateralized with a Federal Aviation Administration Security Agreement 8050-98 Form.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Approve or deny the requested funding amount of \$49,401.00 which is the base cost of equipment and installation for eight (8) aircraft plus a contingency of 10% in the amount of \$4,491.00. The aircraft registration number and ownership are listed below:

<u>N7516Z (The Pickle)</u>	<u>Primary Tow Plane</u>	<u>Owned</u>
<u>N7487Z (White Tow)</u>	<u>Secondary Tow Plane</u>	<u>Owned</u>
<u>N186WJ</u>	<u>3 Place Ride Glider</u>	<u>Owned</u>
<u>N825</u>	<u>Backup Trainer</u>	<u>Owned</u>
<u>N17YC (PW-6)</u>	<u>Primary Trainer</u>	<u>Owned in Partnership KTRK</u>
<u>N7531</u>	<u>3 Place Ride Glider</u>	<u>Owned</u>
<u>N694KS</u>	<u>Rental Glider</u>	<u>Leased</u>
<u>NBQ</u>	<u>Rental Glider</u>	<u>Leased</u>

**FISCAL IMPACT:** A potential expenditure of \$49,401.00. Budget item 800-6024, Aviation Safety Initiatives FY2020.

**SAMPLE MOTION(S):** I move to approve/deny the amount of \$49,401 for ADSB Safety Equipment, Aircraft Modification Partnership with Truckee Tahoe Soaring Association.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1, Installation Estimates