

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 8, 2023

To: Nevada County Transportation Commission

From: Alfred Knotts, Transportation Program Manager

Subject: Truckee Multi-Modal Transportation Program Fiscal Year 23/24 Update

Since the last update, the Town of Truckee (Town) has been working diligently on new and innovative transit initiatives, as well as project development on the Railyard Mobility Hub and other Multi-modal Capital Improvement Projects and Programs.

Updates on these items are highlighted below under each respective heading.

Truckee TART System Update

The Town's Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transportation (TART) System consists of the Truckee Local fixed route, Dial-A-Ride/Complementary Americans with Disabilities Act paratransit service, as well as seasonal Night Service. In January 2023, the Town made the collective decision to suspend night service to Palisades/Olympic Valley indefinitely, due to very low ridership. The Town also made the decision to offer night service to Northstar Resort during the Summer and Winter seasons only, due to low ridership during the off-peak seasons. These decisions were supported by resort partners as well as our operating partners at Placer County and viewed as environmentally and fiscally responsible decisions.

The Town is excited to report that for FY 22/23 Truckee Local fixed route ridership saw an increase of 39% over FY21/22, serving 36,583 passengers. DAR service experienced an increase of 11%, serving 5,331 passengers. These numbers are a great representation of how the Town, along with its partners at Placer County, resorts, and the Truckee North Tahoe Transportation Management Association (TMA), continue to promote the Town and collective region's convenient, fare-free transit service to the community. And lastly, also a great key performance indicator of return on investment of Transportation Development Act funds allocated by the Nevada County Transportation Commission.

Microtransit Pilot Program- TART Connect Update

During the previous update, the Town had recently concluded its first Microtransit Pilot Program and was awaiting results from the Feasibility Study. The summer pilot program, which operated for 73 days from June 25, 2022, through September 5, 2022, served just shy of 19,000 passengers! This equates to over 50% of the overall annual Truckee Local and DAR ridership in just a three (3) month period. The Summer Pilot performance data demonstrated that Truckee TART Connect performed at a high level of transit productivity (i.e., cost per passenger, passengers per hour, passengers per day), and from a community support perspective, surveys

showed strong support for the Summer Pilot with customer satisfaction consistently ranked as “excellent.” Due to the overwhelming success of the summer pilot and community support, Town Council approved a Winter Pilot Program with extended hours to begin operating December 15th through April 2, 2023.

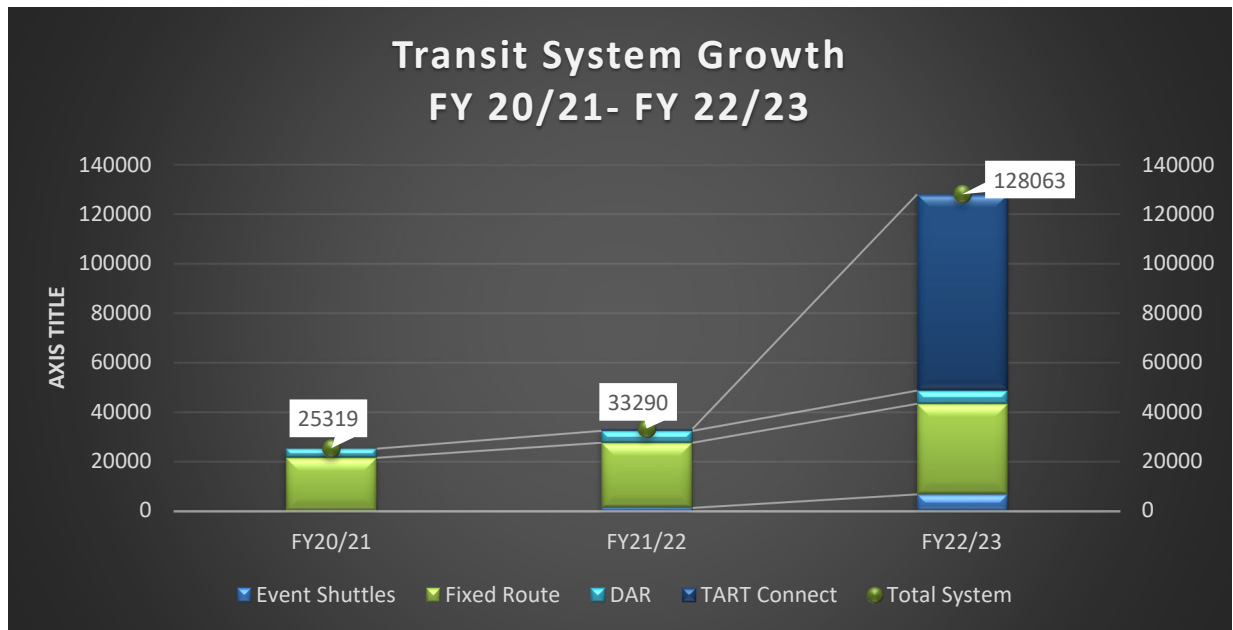
Both the Summer and Winter Pilot were funded by Town General Fund as well as funds from Truckee Special Service Area #1 (Tahoe Donner) and Truckee Special Service Area #5 (Glenshire/Devonshire), which are administered by the Town, as well as contribution from Tahoe Forest Hospital, Truckee-Tahoe Airport District, and Visit Truckee-Tahoe. Given the specificity of these funding sources, the service was limited to the following areas:

- Tahoe Donner and Tahoe Donner Marina
- Donner Pass Road Commercial Core, including Commercial Row
- Brockway Road and Truckee-Tahoe Airport
- Tahoe Forest Hospital
- Glenshire/Devonshire

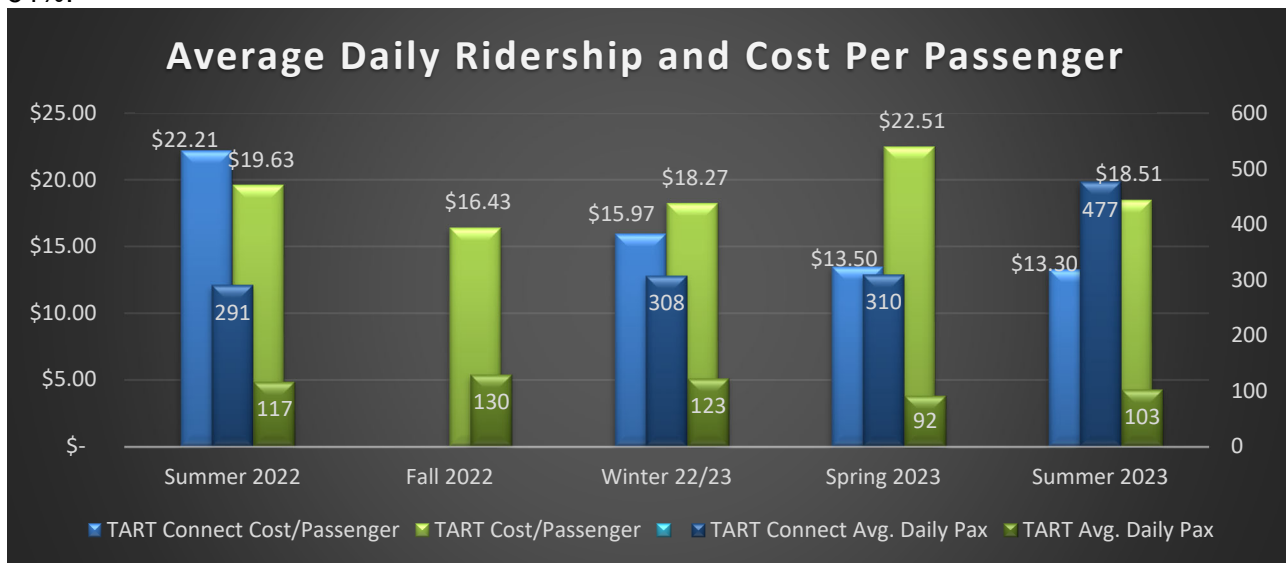
Throughout the Winter Pilot, it was clear that the program was again well-received and utilized by the community with an average daily ridership of 307 passengers per day, accounting for approximately 75% of the Town’s overall transit system ridership. Given this continued success, Town Council voted to approve an extension of the pilot to last throughout the end of the fiscal year. As part of this action, Town Council elected to fund the majority of this service with Town funds as to eliminate any funding restrictions associations with the “color of money” which allowed for the service to be expanded to cover Town limits in its entirety.

Finally, as part of the FY 23/24 budgeting process, the Town Council also approved a year-long pilot to operate from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024 from 6:30 A.M to 10:00 P.M during off-peak seasons and from 6:30 A.M. – 12:00 A.M during summer and winter peak seasons. During the peak summer season, the average daily ridership was 476 passengers per day. The pilot program is currently in its first Fall season and has been maintaining an average of about 407 passengers per day since Labor Day. This ridership data of high demand during off-peak season demonstrates that the service is effectively serving both visitors and residents.

Throughout the nearly nine full months of its operation in FY22/23, TART Connect served just shy of 80,000 passengers, bringing the full Truckee Transit system’s ridership up 285% over FY21/22 ridership to approximately 128,000 passengers.



Throughout the various pilot programs, the Town has been able to work with the contractor to monitor driver schedules, areas and hours of operation, and wait times, in order to ensure a proper balance that meets the needs of the community. The cost per passenger has decreased from about \$22.21 per passenger during the initial Summer Pilot to an average of \$13.30 per passenger during this past summer, July through September 2023. The shared ride percentage has increased from approximately 29% during the initial Summer Pilot to an average of about 54%.



BCycle Electric Pedal Assist Bike Share Program Update

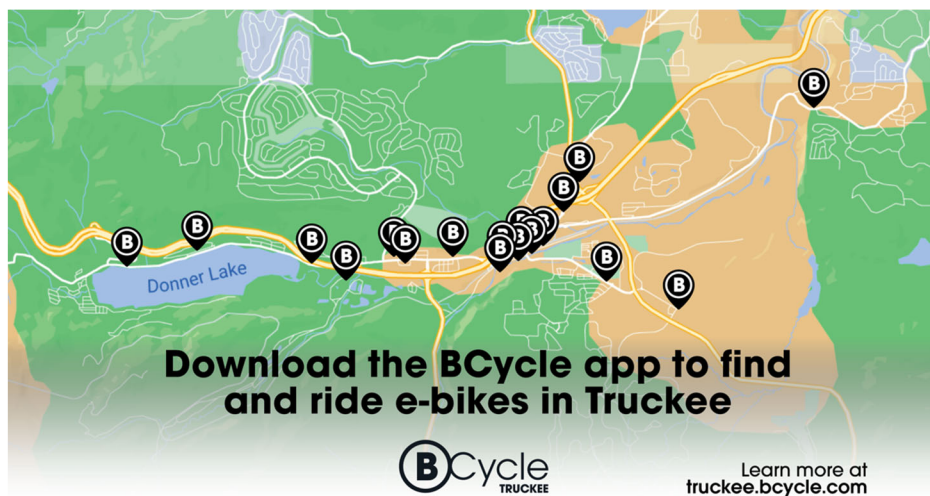
During FY21/22, the Town embarked on a journey to incorporate multi-modal, alternative transportation options into the transit system in Truckee. Town staff issued a Request for Proposals in November 2021 and identified BCycle as the most qualified vendor to provide E-Bike Share program services for the Town. Initially, we hoped to launch the program in the Summer of 2022, but due to a variety of supply-chain issues, the timeline was pushed back.

On June 29th, 2023, the Town, in partnership with BCycle (a subsidiary of Trek Bicycles), launched the pedal assist e-bike share program as an alternative mobility option. The program helps provide easy, fun, and affordable transportation options to residents, visitors, and anyone looking to get a little fresh air on their commute or errands. This initial phase features 50 pedal-assist electric bikes, available at over 100 docking stations all the way from the West End of Donner Lake to the Glenshire Legacy Trailhead.



Figure 1: BCycle Ribbon Cutting, June 29, 2023

Below is a snapshot of the summer 2023 Bcycle locations as well as the most popular stations for checkout and return.



Most popular for bike checkout:

- 1. Glenshire Legacy Trailhead**
- 2. 50/50 Brewery Bus Stop**
- 3. Donner Lake Boat Launch**

Most popular for bike return:

- 1. Glenshire Legacy Trailhead**
- 2. 50/50 Brewery Bus Stop**
- 3. Donner Lake Boat Launch**

In less than four months, over 3,165 trips were made equating to over 20,000 miles ridden on the bikes, enough to bike the US coast to coast almost 7 times over! And in keeping with our Town's sustainability goals, the carbon offset during this short time frame was approximately 19,231 pounds of carbon emissions kept out of our clean Truckee air. As a seasonal program, the bikes were available for use through the end of October and are now in storage for the winter. Next Spring, the bikes and stations will be put back into service as weather allows, which is tentatively scheduled for early May 2024.

“Keep Truckee Moving”: Transit System Expansion and Electrification Update

The Town has been awarded \$4.437 million through the California State Transportation Agency's Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program for our Keep Truckee Moving: Expansion and Electrification Project. The Keep Truckee Moving Project includes Phase 2A and Phase 2B of the Railyard Mobility Hub (discussed below), as well as the purchase of zero emission, battery electric vehicles to be used in the Town's Transit Fleet. The project also includes the procurement of on-demand ride-booking technology for use in current and future transit services, such as microtransit and paratransit. This award is instrumental in allowing the Town to begin its transition to a zero emission Transit Fleet.

Railyard Mobility Hub Update

As the Commission is aware, the Transit Center Relocation Feasibility Study was completed in October 2020 resulting in the identification of the “North Balloon Parcel” as the preferred site.

During the previous update, the Town was in the process of purchasing the parcel. Since then, Phase 1 design was completed in May, and the project was put out to bid shortly thereafter. Construction began at the end of July and includes all of the civil work including but not limited to the following: pavement for circulation, transit vehicle pull outs for both micro

and mass transit vehicles, conduit to support electric vehicle charging and real time transit vehicle location information, space for future public art installation, curb and gutter and pedestrian circulation, drainage, transit shelters, landscaping, and other passenger amenities such as restrooms, bike racks and “fix-it stations,” shade structures and benches. At the time of preparing this communication, Phase 1 is nearly complete, waiting only on the completed construction of three transit shelters and one prefabricated bathroom, expected to be complete before Spring 2024.



Figure 2: Groundbreaking Ceremony, August 7, 2023

The Town expects to begin utilizing the new Mobility Hub on a limited basis beginning this winter with comprehensive rerouting planning being completed as part of Short Range Transit Plan update currently underway by NCTC and in partnership with the Town.



Figure 3: Early Construction, August 3, 2023



Figure 4: Mid-Project, September 15, 2023



Figure 5: October 6, 2023



Figure 6: October 26, 2023

The design for Phase 2A is expected to begin this Fall, with a projected construction start date in Spring/Summer next year. Phase 2A includes a parking lot adjacent to the east side of the Mobility Hub facility along with the necessary infrastructure for electric vehicle charging stations. Phase 2A of this project will allow the Town to complete the first step of transitioning its fleet to zero emissions. These chargers will also be available for use by the public, as well as other transit agencies.

Phase 2B includes an enclosed, climate-controlled transit center structure that will house a passenger waiting area, driver breakroom, as well as cameras for security, heated sidewalks for safety in the winter, final streetscape amenities, and public common areas complemented by public art as well as historical, cultural, and environmental educational and interpretative opportunities. Design has not yet begun on this Phase, and due to the Town's capacity for capital projects, it is expected that construction for this phase will not commence until at least 2025.

Keep Truckee Moving: Expansion and Electrification; Phase 2: Transit Charging and Operations Facility

The Transit Charging and Operations Facility was approved as a Capital Improvement Project during the Town's FY 23/24 budget process. This project, considered Phase 2 of Keep Truckee Moving, will construct a dedicated transit specific facility that will be the keystone in facilitating the Town of Truckee's path toward electrification as well as overall service expansion. This Facility will be located at the existing Public Service Center, where the Town's Fleet Maintenance Facility is located, and will include electric vehicle charging infrastructure, administrative office space for daily operations and dispatching, and climate-controlled storage for the transit fleet, including space for regional partners such as Placer County.

The California State Transportation Agency recently released guidelines on the SB 125 program, which allocates over \$12 million to our region's transportation system through NCTC. The Town has requested \$6.167 million to fund approximately 66.5% of the total project cost, with the remaining 33.5% funded through other future eligible state and federal sources. The Town will pursue all potential funding sources and incentive programs to cover the remaining project cost through State and Federal programs, such as the FTA 5339 program, the Local Partnership Program, and future TIRCP Cycles.

With the CEQA analysis already complete, the Town's next steps are to subdivide the parcel as to create a standalone parcel for this facility, conduct an appraisal, and complete the NEPA analysis. This approach is necessary to avoid "federalizing" the entire Public Service Center site and to make the Project eligible for future federal funding, leveraging the appraised value of the land as local match. These phases are all expected to occur in parallel with each other beginning in July 2024. The Town will also need to procure an Architectural/Engineering (A/E) firm to re-evaluate the existing preliminary design and complete final design by the Spring of 2026. Once final design is complete, the Town will put the project out to bid with an estimated construction start date in Summer 2026. Based on the construction timeline of the previous phase, the construction of this project is expected to require two (2) construction seasons with project completion tentatively scheduled for late Fall 2027. This assumes no major delays in the project development process, especially those associated with NEPA clearance which will require Federal Transit Administration approval.

Other Multi-modal Projects and Programs

Truckee River Legacy Trail Phase 4



Figure 7: October 12, 2023

West River Streetscape Improvements



Figure 8: October 26, 2023

Church Street Extension and Roundabout and Trout Creek Restoration



Figure 9: October 26, 2023

Coldstream Roundabout



Figure 10: September 2022

Public Art in Public Right-of-Way

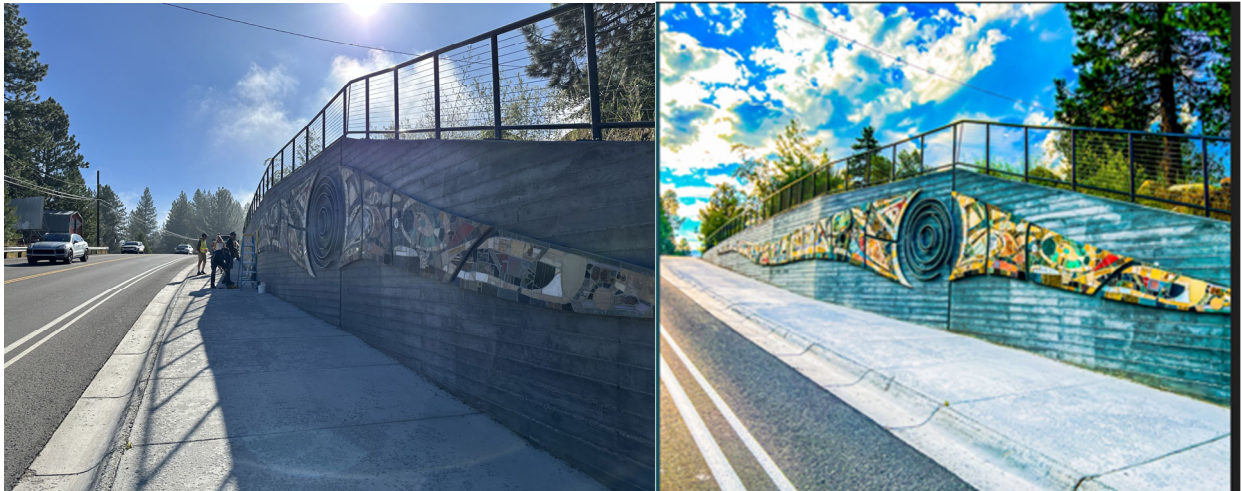


Figure 11: August 2023

The piece relates to this historic passageway that winds beside pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, towards the center of Truckee as highlighted by the concentric circular metal component. The artists pay tribute to those who have gone before us, setting a “Path” for present and future observance of this treasured place.



Figure 12: October 17, 2023

New Donner Lake sculpture, crafted from an unconventional source: a heap of trash retrieved from the depths of Donner Lake. A fish form emerged from the debris pile, fashioned from an amalgamation of anchors, sunglasses, boat bumpers, buoys, and traffic cones.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this update and I look forward to answering any questions you may have. Should you wish to contact me in advance of the meeting, I can be reached via email at aknotts@townoftruckee.com or via phone at (530) 582- 2489.

It's a pleasure working with the Commission and all the wonderful and knowledgeable NCTC staff. On behalf of the Town, we thank you for all of your support, collaboration, and guidance.