



MEMORANDUM

Date: July 17, 2024

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 in November 2023, 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 and TART Connect 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, seasonal Night Service to Northstar, as well as the TART Connect Microtransit Pilot Program.

Ridership on the Truckee Local and Dial a Ride (DAR) services saw tremendous growth during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. Ridership in FY22/23 was nearly 40% higher than FY21/22, which was 23% higher than the prior year. With the addition of the TART Connect microtransit pilot offering year-round, on-demand, Town-wide service in FY23/24, the traditional services started to see a bit of a decline. Fixed route was down about 27% from the prior year, and DAR was up about 3%. However, with the addition of the TART Connect service, overall ridership is up 73% in FY23/24, totaling just shy of 210,000 passenger trips. For comparison, FY22/23 overall ridership was 121,000 passenger trips, and FY21/22 was about 33,000 passenger trips. The Truckee TART system is now regularly carrying about 520 to 700 passengers per day!

In early 2024, the Town contracted LSC Consultants to conduct a review of the TART Connect microtransit pilot program from the initial summer 2022 pilot through the winter 2023-24 season. The review concluded 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 program with customer satisfaction consistently ranked as "excellent." Given the expanded service area and hours of the microtransit program, TART Connect provides a more convenient and flexible transportation option to many residents and visitors in Truckee, however, there is still demand for the traditional fixed route that people can rely on at the scheduled times to get them to appointments or work/school without the highly variable wait times of the microtransit service.

Ridership on TART Connect from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 was 177,752 passenger trips. This is the first full-year data set (365 days) of Town-wide operations from 6:30am-10pm (spring and fall) and 6:30am-midnight (winter and summer). Fiscal Year 2022/23 was comprised of multiple pilot programs, with various operating areas and hours over about 266 days, so the Town will use FY23/24 data as a general baseline moving forward. FY23/24 peak winter and summer seasons had an average of 531 passengers per day, whereas the off-peak seasons had an average of about 443 passengers per day. Ridership data and survey feedback show that the TART Connect program has been efficient and productive in serving both residents and visitors to Truckee.

Throughout the past two years, TART Connect has increased the Truckee Transit system's ridership from an annual average of about 30,000 passengers to 210,000 passenger trips per year!

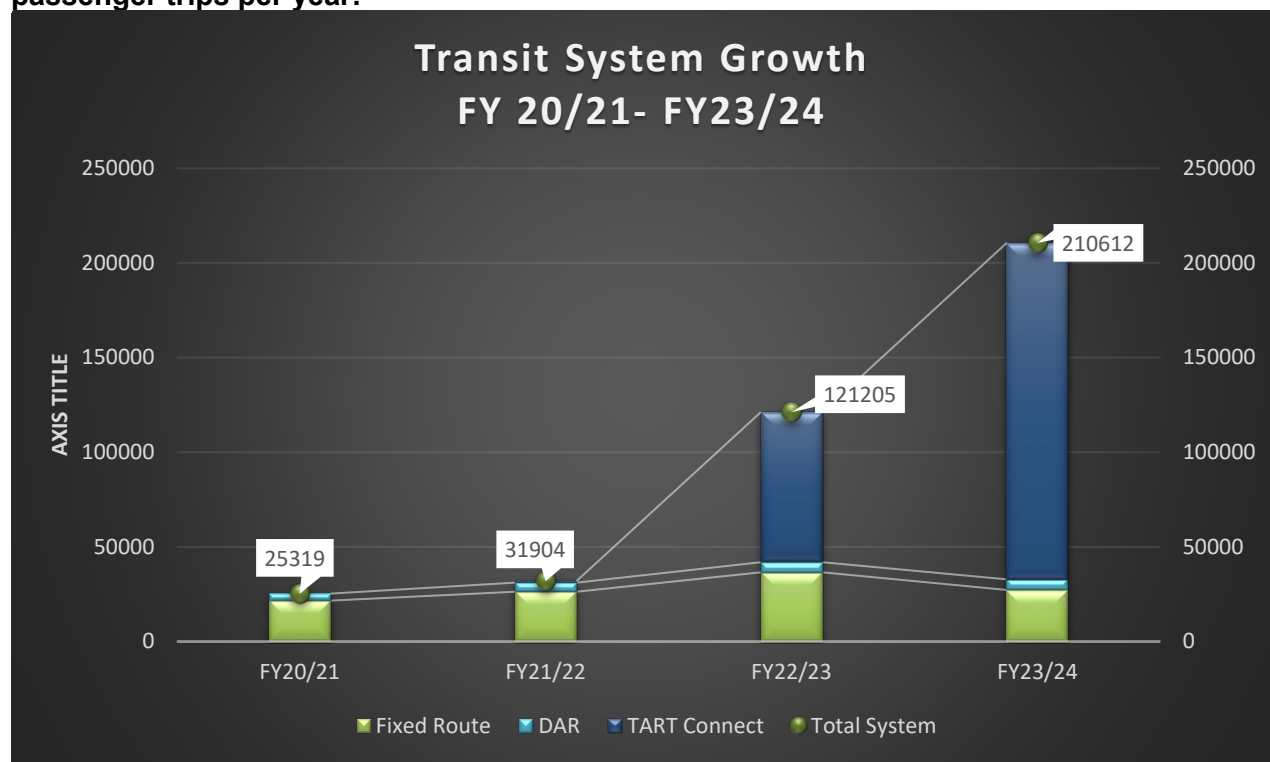


Figure 1: TART System Growth

Throughout the pilot programs, the cost per passenger has decreased from about \$22.21 per passenger during the initial Summer Pilot to an average of about \$13.00 per passenger over the past 12 months. The shared ride percentage has increased from approximately 29% during the initial Summer Pilot to an average of about 65%.

Given the continued success of the program, Town Council voted to approve an extension to the pilot through June 30, 2025. As part of this action, Town Council elected to fund the majority of this service with Town funds, as to eliminate any funding restrictions

BCycle Electric Pedal Assist Bike Share Program Update

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.

In the first two months (May-June 2024), over 1,700 trips have been made equating to nearly 10,000 miles ridden on the bike. In keeping with our Town's sustainability goals, the carbon offset during this short time frame was approximately 9,480 pounds of carbon emissions kept out of our clean Truckee air.

The BCycle team is working with Visit Truckee-Tahoe and local businesses to promote the bikes and look for sponsorship opportunities.

Truckee Bike Month

In years past, the Town has been minimally involved with "Tahoe Bike Month", which is co-hosted by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition. This year, in order to build up participation in Truckee, our staff created a Truckee Bike Month, including the creation of a logo, a month-long bingo challenge, and a Bike Everywhere Day Pledge and event. Local businesses were involved, donating raffle prizes, discount cards, and other swag for the events throughout the month. Though participation was still relatively low, the participants we interacted with were all very excited to have a Truckee Bike Month with events close to home and are looking forward to seeing the program grow in future years.



Figure 2: Truckee Bike Month Logo



Figure 3: Bike Bingo Challenge Card



Figure 2: Participants in Bike Everywhere Day

Railyard Mobility Hub Update

Phase 1 of the Mobility Hub was complete in Fall 2023, waiting only on the prefabricated restroom. The Mobility Hub has been in use since the winter 2023-24 schedule in mid-December. With the opening of the Mobility Hub, there were a few slight route changes to the Truckee Local route, as well as the routes operated by Placer County, which has helped with inefficiencies that used to occur at the Truckee Depot.

The design for Phase 2A has been completed, and the project is currently out to bid. 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.

Phase 2B includes an enclosed, climate-controlled transit center structure that will house a passenger waiting area, driver breakroom, 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.

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 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.

In addition to the SB125 funding allocated to Truckee, 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.

The Town has contracted Eastern Sierra Engineering to provide civil engineering design services for the Public Service Center Master Plan, to evaluate various opportunities and constraints associated with the site, specifically the parcel area directly north of the existing most northern building. The Town will also need to procure an Architectural/Engineering (A/E) firm 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
Scheduled to open by late July 2024



Figure 5: New Pedestrian Bridge installation for Legacy Trail

West River Streetscape Improvements
Scheduled to be complete by October 2024



Figure 6: West River Street Fall 2023

West River Street Park

Construction has begun at DEWBHEYÚMUWE? PARK. This park on West River Street has been named DEWBHEYÚMUWE? PARK by the Washoe Tribe. The Washoe word DEWBHEYÚMUWE? translates to “the water running out” in reference to the Truckee River being the one outlet for Lake Tahoe.



Figure 3: Beginning of Construction, June 2024

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.