

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 4, 2021
To: Nevada County Transportation Commission
From: Kelly Beede, Administrative Analyst II
Subject: Truckee TART Update

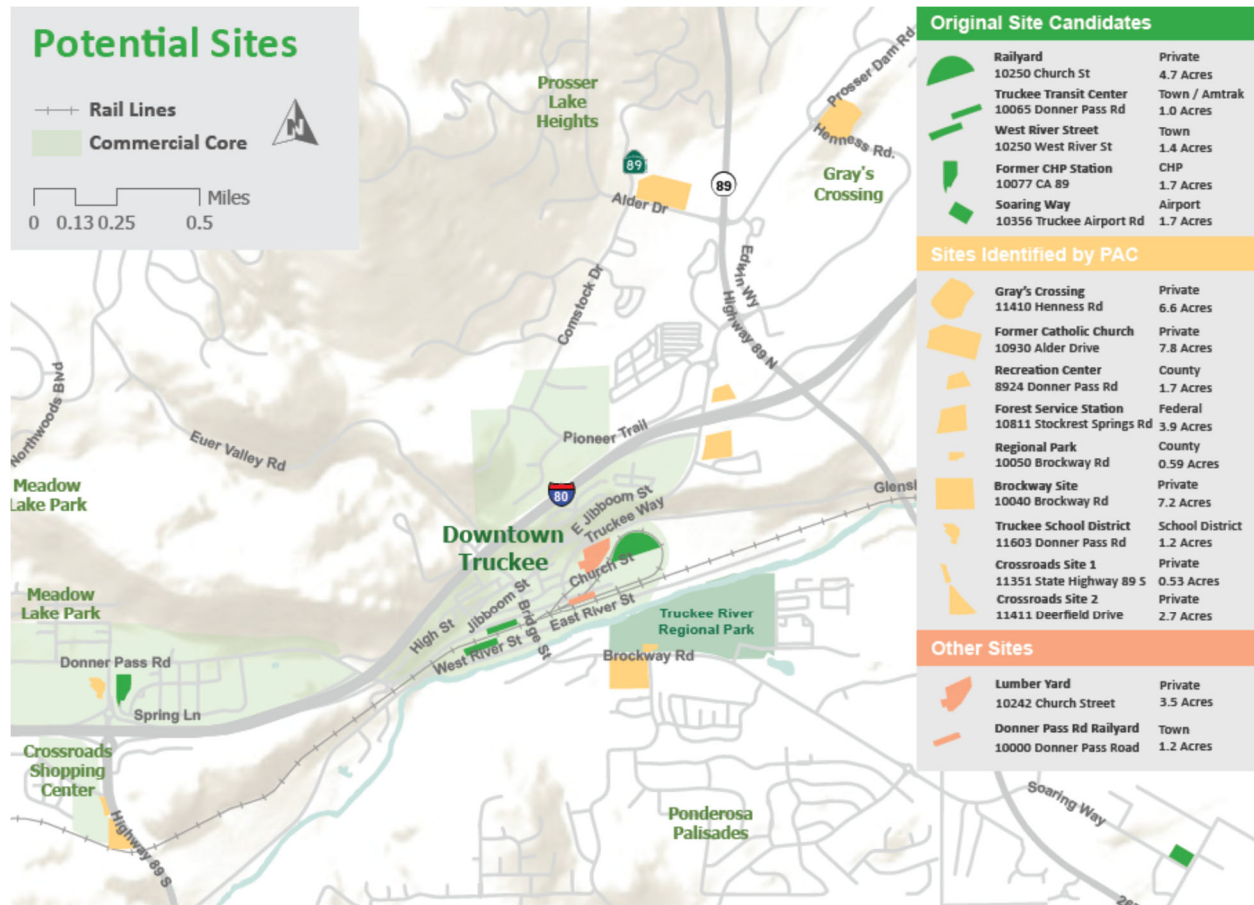
The first half of this fiscal year has been busy despite COVID-19. Paratransit Services was awarded the new operating contract that runs July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2027. The Town received two proposals and Paratransit's vehicle revenue hourly (VRH) rate was 9% lower than the other proposer, MV Transportation. Paratransit's VRH rate under this new contract is 15% higher than under their prior contract with the Town, primarily due to increasing staff wages and incentives to be more competitive with the other area transit providers (Northstar and Placer County), to provide a higher living wage and to increase employee retention. The total estimated contract amount over the seven years is \$6,229,047.

The Transit Center Relocation Feasibility study was completed in October 2020 and a preferred site has been identified. A robust public process was a key component of this study. A 20-member Project Advisory Committee was formed with four meetings held in February, June and November of 2019 and in May of 2020. Members of the public also attended each of these meetings. Three pop-up outreach events were held at two Truckee Thursdays and at Truckee Day. A community workshop that included a site tour was held in February 2020, and staff presented the project at the March 2020 Truckee Downtown Merchants Association meeting. Over the course of 18 months, nine public meetings were held to provide project details, solicit input and vote on a preferred site.



In addition to the public meetings, a questionnaire was made available on the project website (www.TruckeeTransitCenter.com) and was distributed through social media, on the buses, at the pop-up outreach events, and via telephone to transit clients. A total of 122 questionnaires were completed. The website also had a comments portal and facilitated project site voting for those who could not attend a public meeting.

Town staff had identified five initial potential sites and ten additional potential sites were identified at the first PAC meeting as reflected below.



At the second PAC meeting, the Committee narrowed down the 15 sites to five sites based on a discussion of property ownership, use and availability, site compatibility with area planning documents, location to services, bus circulation, etc. The five sites were located on Brockway Road, in the Railyard North Balloon Track, along the new Railyard parking area east of the Beacon Gas Station, the empty lot on the east side of Roundhouse Way, and the existing transit center location at the Train Depot.

The third PAC meeting consisted of ranking the five sites based on additional analyses and basic site designs provided by the consultant team. Upon further discussion about each of the five sites including site availability, planned uses, impact to existing transit routes, and location to destinations, the PAC then participated in a dot exercise ranking the sites (first through fourth choices). The top three site locations included the new Railyard parking area east of the Beacon Gas Station, the Railyard North Balloon Track, and the existing location at the Train Depot.

With the final three sites determined by the PAC, the consultant team prepared detailed conceptual site designs for each of the three sites as shown below.



Railyard Parking Area East of Beacon Gas Station

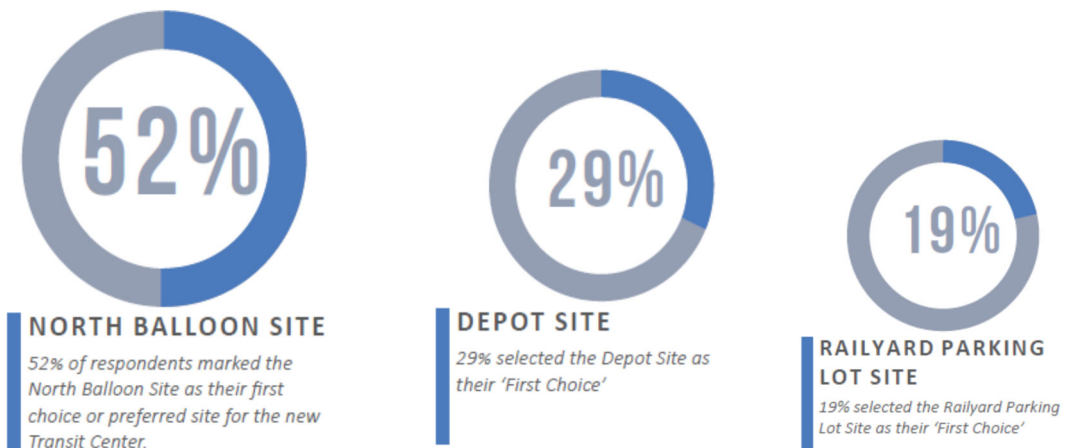


Railyard North Balloon Track



Existing Transit Center

Town staff and the consultant team presented the information on the final three sites at the February 2020 community workshop, the March 2020 Truckee Downtown Merchants Association meeting, and the final PAC meeting held in May 2020. Participants “voted” on the three sites at each of the meetings. Information packets on the three sites were also available on the project website for voting. The community outreach efforts and voting opportunities resulted in the Railyard North Balloon Track as the preferred site location as shown below.



The Railyard North Balloon Track site is currently owned by Truckee Development Associates. The Railyard Master Plan Agreement identifies that 25,000 square feet of land may be purchased by the Town for \$1.00 and an additional 25,000 square feet may be purchased by the Town at fair market value. Given that the Railyard North Balloon Track conceptual design footprint is nearly 40,000 square feet the Town has initiated an appraisal that should be

completed by early summer. The Town is also in the process of pursuing funding for property acquisition, design and construction estimated to cost \$7 million. The complete study report can be downloaded or viewed from the project website www.TruckeeTransitCenter.com.

A new transit shelter and bus pullout were built on Estates Drive adjacent to the Truckee Donner Senior Apartments and Truckee Pines Apartments. The existing bus stop at this location has been our highest ridership stop, which had no passenger amenities or adequate bus pullout. During winter, it is particularly challenging for passengers to wait outside in cold, snowy conditions for the bus that may be running behind schedule due to the winter weather. Similarly, on hot summer days when temperatures reach above 90 degrees, waiting in the heat can pose challenges to passengers as well. This project provides a greatly needed and improved transit passenger amenity that provides shelter from the elements, passenger seating for comfort, and solar lighting and handrails for safety. The project was primarily funded by Community Development Block Grant program revenue.



We continue to feel the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since April 2020, passengers have been required to wear masks on the buses and around transit facilities (stops, shelters). We provide masks to those who do not board with their own, hand sanitizer is also available to passengers, and buses are sanitized on a daily basis. The Local Route ridership has significantly fluctuated over the past 7 months compared to the prior year with ridership in the Summer down 18%, up 17% in the Fall, and dropping 25% over Winter. Dial-A-Ride ridership on average is down 63% over the same time period. The Night Service that operates between Truckee and the Northstar and Squaw Valley resorts was suspended on December 10, 2020 due in part to the additional restrictions implemented by the State and the shortage of drivers that our operator is experiencing. Placer County had also suspended their night service for the same reasons. We are hopeful that both our night services will be reinstated for the Spring schedule that starts on April 5, 2021.

Please contact me (kbeede@townoftruckee.com) with any questions or comments. Thank you.