

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 9, 2022

To: Nevada County Transportation Commission

From: Alfred Knotts, Transportation Program Manager

Subject: Truckee Transportation Program Fiscal Year 22/23 Quarterly Update

Since the last update, the Town of Truckee (Town) has been working diligently rebuilding ridership to pre-COVID levels while also working on new and innovative transit initiatives, as well as project development on the Railyard Transit Center and passage of Measure U (formerly Measure R). Updates on these items are highlighted below under each respective heading.

Truckee TART System Update

Early in Fiscal Year 21/22 Truckee Tahoe Area Regional Transit (TART), along with many systems across the nation, experienced labor shortages associated with hiring as well as retention of drivers. This resulted in suspension of Fall night service along the State Route 267 and Highway 89 corridors between the Town and resort bases of Northstar and Palisades Tahoe, respectively. To address these issues, the operator, Paratransit Services, increased hiring salaries as well as signing bonuses, which increased interest during the recruitment process. Additionally, the Town took an active role in advertising and recruiting through the Town Human Resources Department and Town portal and outlets which had not previously been done. As a result, the contractor has been successful in recruiting, hiring, and retaining the necessary number of drivers to operate both peak (Dec - April and June – Sept) and off-peak services.

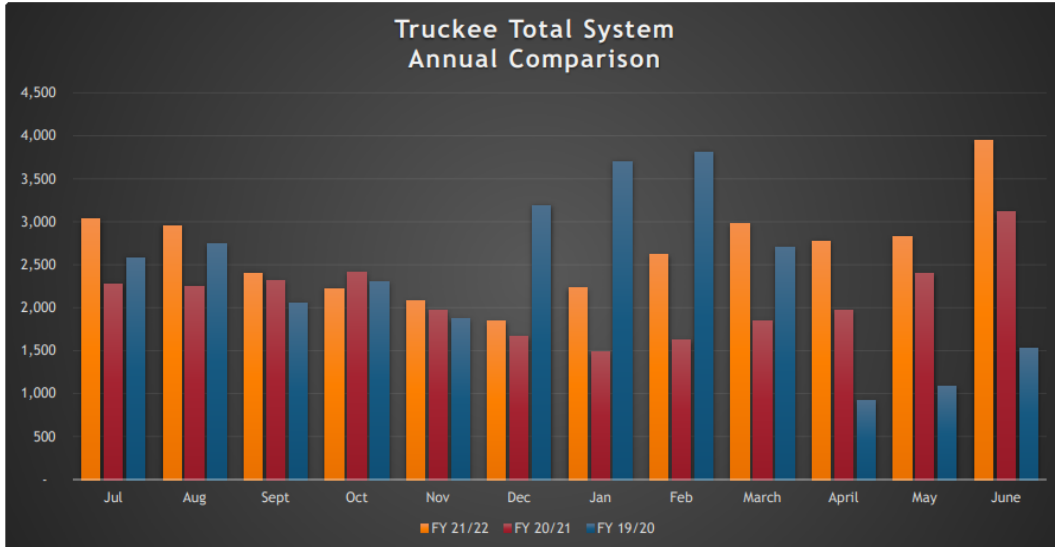
In regard to FY 21/22 performance, the Town is happy to report that ridership is close to or at pre-Covid levels with Truckee TART system ridership. The following chart shows ridership by service type as well as a combination of the entire system.:

Truckee TART Ridership Comparison

<u>Fixed Route</u>	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	YTD
FY 21/22	2,598	2,502	1,989	1,831	1,742	1,562	1,858	2,275	2,547	2,369	2,355	2,685	26,313
FY 20/21	2,049	2,078	2,091	2,060	1,700	1,430	1,241	1,351	1,498	1,631	1,905	2,587	21,621
FY 19/20	1,959	2,036	1,374	1,563	1,275	2,575	3,006	3,159	2,328	835	965	1,353	22,428
% Change this FY to Last	26.79%	20.40%	-4.88%	-11.12%	2.47%	9.23%	49.72%	68.39%	70.03%	45.25%	23.62%	3.79%	21.70%

<u>Dial-A-Ride</u>	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	YTD
FY 21/22	430	454	413	391	340	282	372	343	433	405	473	479	4,815
FY 20/21	230	174	219	346	272	229	247	274	347	335	494	531	3,698
FY 19/20	624	710	682	740	601	615	697	653	368	81	114	179	6,064
% Change this FY to Last	86.96%	160.92%	88.58%	13.01%	25.00%	23.14%	50.61%	25.18%	24.78%	20.90%	-4.25%	-9.79%	30.21%

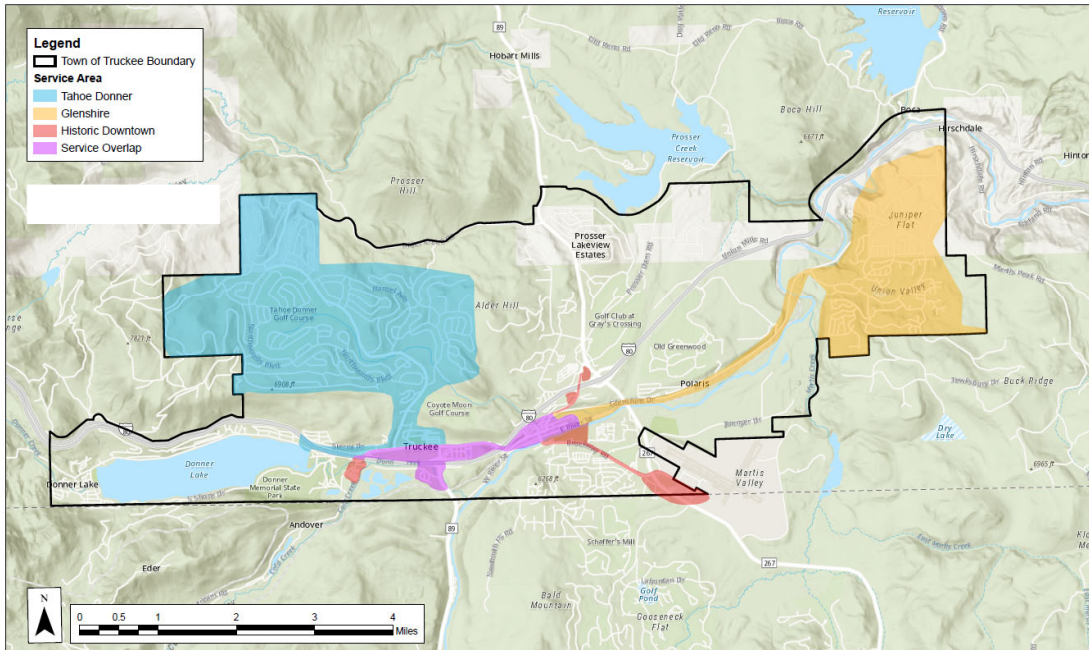
Total System	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	YTD
FY 21/22	3,028	2,956	2,402	2,222	2,082	1,844	2,230	2,618	2,980	2,774	2,828	3,940	31,904
FY 20/21	2,279	2,252	2,310	2,406	1,972	1,659	1,488	1,625	1,845	1,966	2,399	3,118	25,319
FY 19/20	2,583	2,746	2,056	2,303	1,876	3,190	3,703	3,812	2,696	916	1,079	1,532	28,492
% Change this FY to Last	32.87%	31.26%	3.98%	-7.65%	5.58%	11.15%	49.87%	61.11%	61.52%	41.10%	17.88%	26.36%	26.01%



Microtransit Feasibility and Pilot Program

As mentioned in our previous report, the Town was in the process of soliciting the procurement of both a transit planning firm as well as a microtransit operator to assist with planning and launching a “turn-key” microtransit service for Summer 2022. Since that time, Town staff worked expeditiously to procure these professional services as well as form a Microtransit Working Group, secure non-state and non-federal funding (Town funds, Tahoe Donner and Glenshire Truckee Special Service Area funds, Tahoe Forest Hospital, and Visit Truckee-Tahoe TOT Funds), and successfully market and launch a Summer 2022 Microtransit Pilot Program, which served the following area:

Service Areas

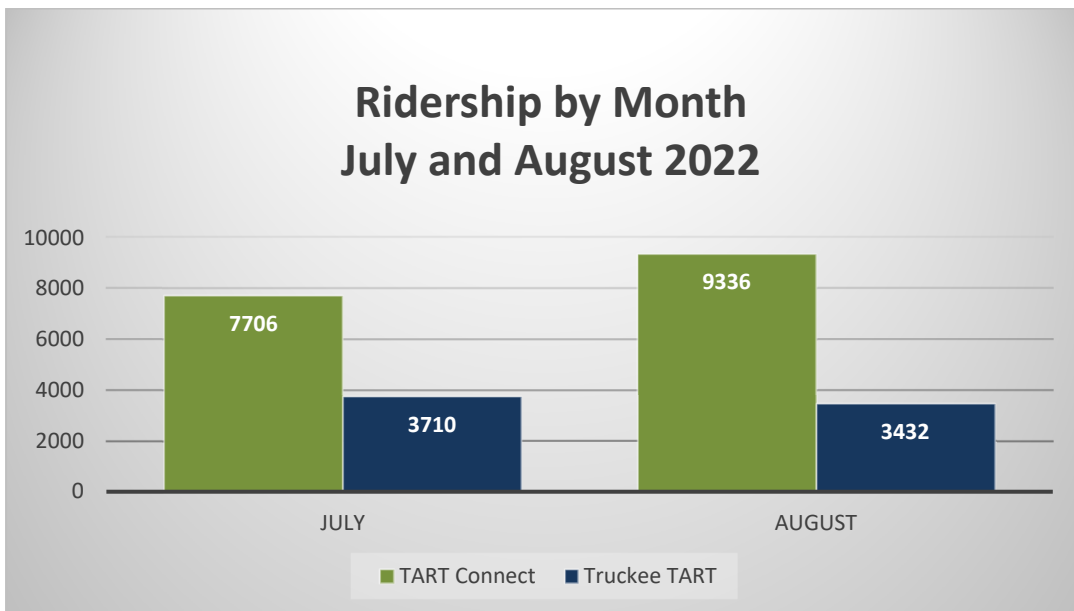


Consistent with the Town and Placer County’s co-branding of TART, the Town branded and marketed this microtransit program as “TART Connect” in line with Placer County’s microtransit program that operates on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe.

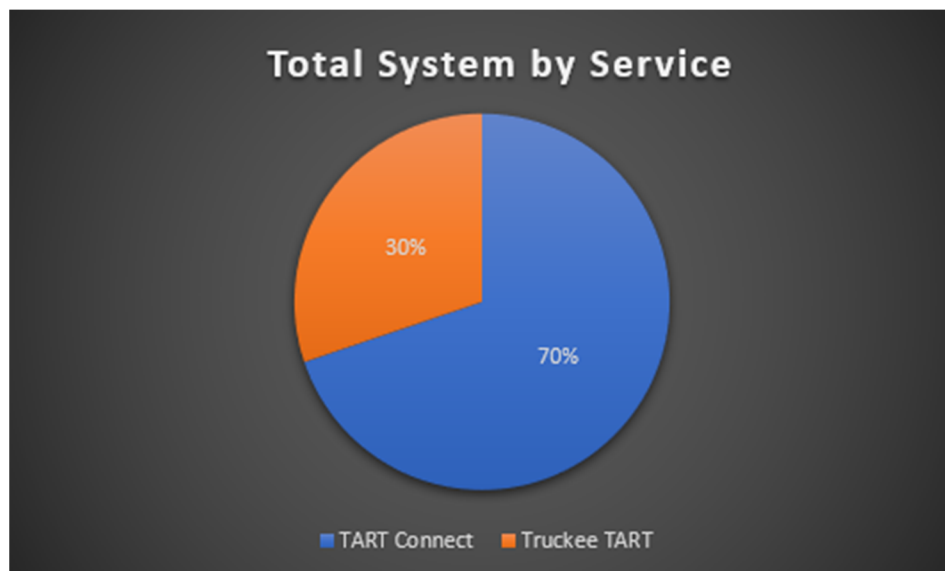


Below is a snapshot of the overall service parameters and performance:

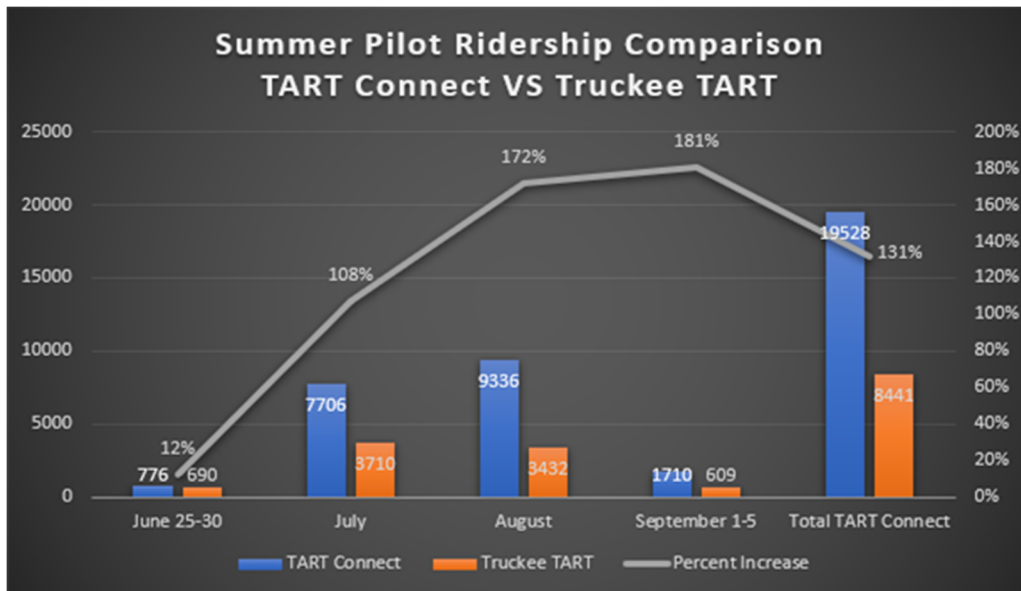
- Program Cost - \$460,977
- Pilot Period – June 25 – Sept 5 (10:00 AM – 10:00 PM)
- Days of Operation - 73
- Total Passengers – 19,556
- % Shared Rides – 27%
- Cost per rider - \$23.56
- % of Pickups within 15 mins – 85%
- Customer rating – 4.9 out of 5



As shown below, TART Connect was highly utilized accounting for approximately 70% of the overall transit ridership during pilot period in which it operated.



Overall transit ridership also increased by approximately 130%.



Given the initial success of TART Connect in the Town through the summer pilot program, Town Staff successfully sought and secured funding from the previous sources in the amount of approximately \$527,000 to fund and launch a Winter 22/23 pilot program. This service will operate from December 15 – April 2 from 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM. Through the pilot period, the Town intends to conduct a thorough feasibility analysis to determine the viability of reconfiguring the Truckee TART system as to operate under a microtransit model. These findings are intended to inform both the Town budgeting process as well as the forthcoming Short Range Transit Development Plan being undertaken by NCTC Staff and in cooperation with the Town.

Railyard Transit Plaza

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/alternative shown below.



At the time of preparing this communication, the Purchase Sale Agreement for this parcel has been finalized and sent to the Seller, Truckee Development Associates (TDA), to initiate the

escrow and closing process. The Town and TDA anticipate closing to be complete in the next 30-60 days. Concurrently with the acquisition process, the Town has been working diligently with the preliminary and final design of Phase 1 with the plans, specification, and estimate at 100% completion.

This Phase 1 design will include 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. Phase 1 is scheduled to be bid in winter 2023 with construction commencing summer 2023.

Phase 2, which design has not been initiated, will be scoped to include the enclosed, climate-controlled transit center structure as shown above. Phase 2 also contemplates the final streetscape amenities, wayfinding, and at grade electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Phase 2 of the Project is not currently fully funded; however, Town will be pursuing several state and federal grant opportunities in FY 22/23 and FY 23/24 with construction anticipated in FY 24/25.

Truckee Trails Sales Tax Renewal Update

As part of the last Town update to Commission, the Town reported that we would be pursuing a voter initiative to renew the Truckee Trails Sales tax measure known as Measure R. Measure R was passed in 2014 and authorized a ¼% sales tax dedicated to the construction and maintenance of trails. Specifically, the ballot language provided for the following expenditure authority:

“Completing the Truckee River Legacy Trail, building and maintaining paved and dirt trails, and protecting the environment and natural open space along trail corridors. Specific uses that would be allowed include pavement maintenance, erosion control, sweeping, litter removal, snow removal and other winter maintenance, and repair or replacement of bridges, signs, bike racks, sanitation facilities, and other amenities.”

Measure R has a 10-year taxing authority which meant the measure was set to expire on June 3, 2024. Given the important role trails play in the Town’s quality of life, economic vitality, sustainability, overall transportation system, and goals of reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and GHG emissions, the Town proposed a new Trails Tax initiative, referred to this time as Measure U, on the June 2022 Primary Election ballot. Measure U proposed increasing the sales tax from ¼% to ½% and proposed to make the life of the tax authorized “until rescinded by voters.” Measure U was approved by nearly 80% of the Town voters and is estimated to generate approximately \$3 million dollars annually for the planning, design, construction, and operations and maintenance of both paved and unpaved trails and associated amenities.

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.