



## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

MEETING DATE: July 16, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 4.10

From: Bill Thomas, Executive Director

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### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a funding agreement to contribute \$160,000 towards the Tahoe Transportation District's purchase of the former elementary school in Incline Village as a potential site for a future mobility hub.

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

RTC partners with Placer County and the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) to contribute towards the transit services and facilities in the Washoe County portion of the Tahoe Basin, i.e. Incline Village. Placer County operates the Tahoe Area Regional Transit (TART) system which provides transit services connecting Incline Village with the rest of the North Shore and the Town of Truckee. RTC provides funding for the service in Incline Village. RTC and TTD have also provided transportation services connecting Incline Village with Washoe County and other parts of the Tahoe Basin.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Tahoe Basin. TRPA and TTD have asked the RTC to contribute \$160,000 towards the cost of purchasing the former elementary school in Incline Village as a potential site for a future mobility hub. The purchase price is approximately \$2,350,000. TTD secured a grant from the Nevada Department of Transportation for approximately \$2,000,000 of Federal Transit Administration funding. The grant requires a match of approximately \$320,000 in non-federal funding. RTC's contribution would be used as part of the match for the grant. TRPA sent a letter outlining the request. *See Attachment A.*

The purchase of the school site will be a protective acquisition. The purchase will ensure that the site can be considered as part of a community-based final site selection process that is currently underway, instead of being sold to a third party before that selection process can be completed. TRPA and TTD expect that the selection process could take up to a year. If the site is not selected, the site will be sold and the funds will be used to purchase the selected site with concurrence from RTC's Executive Director. Once a site is selected, it would then take a period of years (at least 7 or 8) for the mobility hub to be funded and constructed.

TTD intends to purchase the school site this fall. If the Board approves this item, the Executive Director would negotiate a funding agreement with TRPA and TTD and seek Board approval of that agreement in August so that TTD can complete the purchase. The agreement would ensure that the funds will be returned to RTC in the event that the site is sold and no alternative site is purchased within a reasonable period of time, or if the mobility hub is not completed within a reasonable period of time.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The funding will be provided through a reallocation of the FY 2022 public transportation budget.

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION**

There has been no previous Board action or direction on this matter.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

- A. Letter from TRPA



**Mail**  
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Stateline, NV 89449-5310

**Location**  
128 Market Street  
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**Contact**  
Phone: 775-588-4547  
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Date

William A. Thomas, AICP  
Executive Director  
Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County  
P.O. Box 30002  
Reno, NV 89520

Dear Mr. Thomas,

As you know the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the bi-state Lake Tahoe Region and is responsible for preparing and facilitating implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Lake Tahoe. Like Placer County, which provides the Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit (TART) transit service primarily on the north shore and into Washoe County with funding provided through RTC Washoe, the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) is also responsible for implementing transit services identified in the RTP. One of the RTP projects the TTD is attempting to implement is a mobility hub in the Incline Village area that will better connect their East Shore Express service with the TART transit service and, should RTC Washoe continue to serve the Lake, the service provided by RTC Washoe. The purpose of this letter is to seek the assistance of RTC Washoe in funding the Incline Village Mobility Hub site acquisition as detailed below.

General locations for new mobility hubs have been identified in the RTP and they serve as multimodal hubs for the different modes of transportation at the Lake. For example, a mobility hub may include automobile parking, transit service, and connections to bicycle and pedestrian paths. TTD has been successful in obtaining a grant award from the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to provide over \$2 million in Federal Transit Administration funds for a protective acquisition of the former elementary school site in Incline Village for a potential new mobility hub. The community-based final site selection process is currently under way and no project has been permitted yet, but the TTD Board approved acquisition with the understanding that selection of the final location may result in the old elementary school site being sold to purchase an alternative site in the same general area. With this understanding, the TRPA Governing Board amended the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the Incline Village mobility hub site acquisition funds.

The purchase price of the school site is approximately \$2,350,000. The funding from NDOT/FTA requires a match of approximately \$320,000 in non-federal funding. TRPA is requesting that RTC Washoe provide \$160,000 of that non-federal funding with a few conditions that we believe will honor the public input process that is currently underway, and protect the RTC Washoe investment regardless of future changes in circumstances.

TTD intends to acquire the school site this fall. If the site is acquired, but then another site is selected through the public input process for mobility hub site selection, the site will be sold and the funds will be used to purchase the selected site with concurrence from RTC Washoe's

Executive Director. If a site is selected, but the mobility hub is not completed within a reasonable period of time, the site will be sold and the funds will be returned to RTC Washoe. If no site is selected, the site will be sold and the funds will be returned to RTC Washoe.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to continuing our partnership in meeting the transportation needs in the greater Reno/Tahoe region. We believe the hub will be an essential part of the regional transportation system. We view this as a unique opportunity to ensure a critical component of our RTP is implemented to serve the needs of those in both of our MPO jurisdictions. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact John B. Hester, AICP, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Executive Director, at [jhester@trpa.gov](mailto:jhester@trpa.gov) or 775.589.5219.

Sincerely,

Joanne S. Marchetta  
Executive Director  
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency