

Executive Summary for Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project

Located along the north shore of Lake Tahoe in Placer County, California, the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project consists of a major public infrastructure effort to revitalize the lake shore community of Kings Beach with intermodal and roadway safety enhancements coupled with “complete street” infrastructure and streetscape improvements. The project will help trigger private redevelopment projects and provide multi-modal benefits that will increase and enhance transportation options within the community and to other communities¹ resulting in enhanced public transit connectivity for the North Lake Tahoe region. Just as importantly, the project targets disadvantaged groups² and promotes Ladders of Opportunities for them by providing improved and more affordable transportation options to education centers, health clinic services, family resource center services, employment guidance services, and job locations.

Lake Tahoe, a vast alpine lake situated along the border between California and Nevada, is world renowned for its beauty and awe-inspiring scenery. Commitments exceeding \$1 billion from Federal, State and local governments over the last decade to restore and protect this federally designated “Outstanding National Resource Water” have helped to sustain Lake Tahoe as a desirable place to reside and contributed towards its top tier ranking as a worldwide and United States travel destination. The project represents a strategic and collaborative investment in the Lake Tahoe Basin, not only benefiting residents of both California and Nevada lakeshore communities, but also the plentiful visitors to the Lake annually.

Highlights of this \$45M public infrastructure investment centered in the north shore unincorporated community of Kings Beach at Lake Tahoe include:

➤ **Broad Multi-Agency Collaboration:**

The project exhibits a high degree of federal, bi-state, regional and local jurisdictional and stakeholder collaboration with nine financial partners. Key transportation agencies that support this project from both California and Nevada include the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization, California Department of Transportation, Nevada Department of Transportation, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency and Washoe County Department of Public Works located in Nevada. Other key support comes from the US Forest Service, North Tahoe Business Association (local business and property owners), California legislators, and US Congressional representation (the Honorable US Senator Barbara Boxer).

➤ **Public-Private Partnership (protecting and ensuring long-term project benefits):**

The project has uniquely and successfully secured long-term operation and maintenance funding through formation and passage of Kings Beach Benefit

¹ Communities such as Tahoe City and Truckee, CA and Incline Village, NV that all connect to Interstate 80 linking visitors and residents within and outside the North Lake Tahoe region.

² The community of Kings Beach has a median household income of \$38,026 (38% below Statewide median) and Hispanic/Latino origin of total population of nearly 56% (National average of total for this ethnicity group is 16% according to 2010 US Census Bureau data).

Assessment District No. 1 whereby business and residential property owners voted to tax themselves into perpetuity at an initial annual assessment of \$166,0000. These private dollars will be used to protect and maintain the project improvements and to ensure the project's multiple benefits continue in the long-term to their fullest extent for the community and visitor alike. This type of private investment represents an unparalleled commitment to a public project ahead of receiving all of the capital funding needed to deliver the project.

➤ **Improved Safety and Innovation:**

- Reduction in Total Collision and Fatal plus Injury Collision rates from above to below statewide averages (reduction in 11 accidents annually)
- Rehabilitation of 1.1 miles of aged California State Route 28 with reduction from four to three lanes
- Addition of one roundabout at uncontrolled intersection and conversion of signalized intersection to a roundabout
- State route lane reduction allows room for sidewalks and dedicated bike lanes across entire community and narrower crossing of highway with refuge locales for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Formalized vehicular parking locations and upgraded bus transit stops

➤ **Protects Lake Tahoe, a federally designated Outstanding National Resource Water:**

Continues efforts to improve storm water runoff by achieving a 50% reduction in the current 88,000 lbs. of sediment discharged annually into Lake Tahoe from Kings Beach and helps reverse the downward trend of deep lake water transparency loss

➤ **Economic Benefits:**

- Job Generation: Estimated 150 direct jobs and a total of 477 direct, indirect or induced job-years created via actual project construction, and nearly four job-years created for long-term publicly funded project maintenance
- Property Value increase: \$4,137,000
- Increase the economic vitality of the economically distressed rural Kings Beach area (pop. 3,796) via the redevelopment of numerous blighted properties, enhanced movement of goods and services, a stabilized, reliable tax base and enhanced visitor experiences

➤ **Quality of Life and Environmental Sustainability:**

- Adds healthy choices for transportation across community with sidewalks and Class 2 bike lanes
- Enhances transit use and connections to regional communities and Interstate 80 corridor with 12 enhanced bus stop locations
- Reduces carbon emissions by an estimated 11.23 metric tons and vehicle-miles of travel (VMT) of 69,600 annually
- Expansion of alternative modes of transportation that result in less reliance on the personal automobile with 305,000 additional bicycle trips per year and 313,000 walking trips per year
- Preserves rural nature of the area by removing a vehicular travel lane and replacing it with areas of healthier multimodal mobility alternatives for local

and regional residents and tourists alike, and in turn, improves their quality of life

➤ **Project Details**

Multi-modal connections center around rehabilitating 1.1 miles of CA State Route 28, including addition of Class 2 bike lanes and curb, gutter and continuous sidewalk on both sides of highway and on County roads to connect to businesses, roundabouts at two intersections for improved roadway safety, and transforming the highway from four lanes (two travel lanes in each direction) to one travel lane in each direction with a continuous center turning lane. The project will:

- Improve quality of storm water runoff
- Enhance and improve the safety of vehicle, public transit, pedestrian and bicycle mobility for residents, local workforce laborers and visitors
- Provide streetscape beautification and safety elements to foster and increase the economic vitality of the community's downtown corridor mix of commercial and residential development

The major roadway and right-of-way being transformed by the project is owned and operated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Placer County became the lead agency on the project through extensive and successful interagency coordination. Both Caltrans and Placer County are assigned significant Lake Tahoe restoration goals and through this coordination, multimodal transportation improvements and environmental threshold progress will be met at levels unattainable if Caltrans were the lead agency.

The project addresses existing deficiencies in the Kings Beach area, including:

- Substandard storm water drainage infrastructure of the highway. Untreated urban runoff can make its way from the highway to shore of Lake Tahoe³ that is as close as 200 feet
- Residents and visitors contend with a wide four-lane highway that significantly impacts the safety and mobility of pedestrians and bicycles
- Non standard roadway geometrics⁴. Improvements such as curb and gutter, sidewalks, and lighting are essentially non-existent
- No continuous link or dedicated paths through the town for pedestrian and bicycle passage
- Few strategically located parking lots and below par public bus transit stops
- Economically distressed rural area

³ Lake Tahoe is designated an Outstanding National Resource Water by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

⁴ Project Report, Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project on State Route 28 in Placer County from State Route 267 to Chipmunk Street, January 2010.

➤ **Summary of Important Project Benefits/Features**

- Ready for *broad public use* upon completion of project construction
- Will benefit Lake Tahoe water quality and help reverse the overall downward trend in lake clarity through a 50% reduction in the estimated 88,000 pounds of sediment that discharge annually on average into Lake Tahoe from the Kings Beach area
- Provides significant *multimodal benefits and safety improvements* for cars, transit, bikes, and pedestrians and *improves quality of life* for residents and visitors
- More right-of-way can be dedicated to pedestrians and bicyclists by way of 10-ft. nominal width sidewalks on both sides of roadway and a 5-ft. wide Class 2 bike lane in each direction
- Vehicular parking and public bus transit stops will be formalized and upgraded
- Reductions in Kings Beach's accident rates on highway estimated at 11 per year
- *Aligns* with the well-received transportation model constructed in the nearby north shore community of Tahoe City
- *Improves* upon Lake Tahoe's existing major transportation route (primarily two lanes) circling the Lake (see attached project vicinity map)
- The north shore of Lake Tahoe is primarily a tourist-based economy. Through these public improvements along the highway that fronts approximately 103 commercial, restaurant and lodging businesses, a marked improvement in economic vitality and encouragement of private redevelopment is anticipated