



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 13, 2025

DATE: March 21, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Aaron Smith, Division Director, Operations,
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THROUGH: Eric Crump, Director,
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the Truckee Meadows
Regional Trails Plan, developed by Truckee Meadows Trails Initiative.
(All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Truckee Meadows Trails Initiative (TMT) is a community-led regional effort aimed at enhancing non-motorized recreation opportunities for residents and visitors by identifying and connecting trails across the Truckee Meadows region. TMT has developed a Truckee Meadows Regional Trails Plan to encourage multijurisdictional collaboration, centralize decision making, and improve regional trail connectivity. The plan proposes the creation of a centralized Truckee Meadows Trails Coordinator role, the prescription of regional trail routes, and priorities for trail development. While the intent of the plan aligns with Washoe County's long-standing commitment to trail access and connectivity, staff emphasizes that authority for trail planning, prioritization, and implementation should remain with the public agencies accountable to their constituents. Acknowledging this plan recognizes the value of regional coordination while affirming Washoe County's responsibility to represent the public interest in determining local trail infrastructure priorities and project applications.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Economic Impacts - Meeting the Needs of Our Growing Community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

September 25, 2024 - The Open Space and Regional Park Commission recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approve and adopt the Truckee Meadows Regional Trails Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Truckee Meadows Trails Initiative (TMT) is a community-led regional effort designed to improve the range of opportunities for residents and visitors by identifying

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and establishing non-motorized routes for greater trail connectivity in the Truckee Meadows region. The Truckee Meadows Regional Trails Plan outlines a vision of a healthy Truckee Meadows community connected by trails and provides the foundation for the newly completed Truckee Meadows Regional Trails Plan. It provides a holistic view of the region that develops enhancements and connectivity from within, as well as to the outside. The Truckee Meadows conceptual trail network is to be used for planning and project development purposes by agencies and trail organizations in the region.

This Regional Trails Plan builds on the foundation of the 2021 Plan and Report and is a framework for the improvement of the trail and pathway systems of the Truckee Meadows region. Its purpose is to further develop the concepts in the Plan and Report to make them actionable by the Trails Program Coordinator, Working Group, and other regional partners. The plan describes a future trail network concept and defines the strategies for implementing the TMT program. In combination with the Plan and Report, the Regional Trails Plan will enable local governments, organizations, and other entities to participate in an organized and integrated approach to management of existing trails and creation of new trails; and serve as a focal point for all to check in with a collective vision for a connected regional trail system. This should lead to meaningful new projects that meet the goals of this regional trails plan. The Truckee Meadows conceptual trail network is to be used for planning and project development purposes by agencies and trail organizations in the region.

On December 3, 2019, Mark Kimbrough with Truckee Meadows Trails provided a presentation to the Open Space and Regional Park Commission about the Truckee Meadows Trails Plan and Report. The presentation covered the vision, collaboration needed, trail inventory and data collection, trail user surveys, and the plan. At that time, the desire was to have a working group formalized and a trails coordinator hired.

A Trail Program Coordinator was hired through generous funding from Economic Development of Western Nevada (EDAWN). With that position, TMT was able to secure a planning grant from the National Parks Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to work on the TMT Action Plan (Regional Trails Plan). Of the three local governments in the Truckee Meadows, Washoe County is the only one that has a full-time dedicated Trails Program Coordinator. This Coordinator is responsible for the County trails program, including trail network enhancement on Washoe County lands and trail-related coordination with other agencies and regional partners. This position is an investment in trails by the County and is a major asset to the TMT effort and growth of the regional trails network. The Washoe County Trails Program Coordinator will continue to work closely with the TMT Program Coordinator to meet the goals of this Regional Trails Plan. In addition, the Working Group recommends that any projects in the Truckee Meadows that might benefit from regional coordination should involve the Truckee Meadows Trails program. Specifically, the Cities of Reno and Sparks should utilize the TMT Program Coordinator for program assistance with any trail-related project needs in their jurisdictions.

On January 24, 2024, Jay Howard, Truckee Meadows Trails Program Coordinator provided an update on the TMT Action Plan (Regional Trails Plan). The plan was mostly complete, with some minor edits and revisions, and he stated he would be ready to bring

the plan back to the Open Space and Regional Park Commission (OSRPC) for recommended approval.

Washoe County's Trail Program Coordinator was involved in the collaborative effort of creating the Regional Trails Plan, as this plan provides regional goals and objectives. However, Washoe County will continue moving forward with its own goals and objectives for the Trails Program with continued collaboration on regional trail systems such as the Tahoe Pyramid Trail and the V&T Trail. Washoe County's trail program will also continue to dedicate time and effort into trail systems in our regional parks such as Hidden Valley and Davis Creek and seek funding for park and trail projects based on Washoe County's priorities.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no specific fiscal impact with the possible acknowledgment of the Truckee Meadows Regional Trails Plan. Since the impacts and funding mechanisms for any identified future projects, marketing strategies and funding opportunities such as grants, that align with the vision of the community and plan will be included in appropriate budget requests or specifically brought back to the Board for implementation.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge receipt of the Truckee Meadows Regional Trails Plan, developed by Truckee Meadows Trails Initiative.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:
"Move to acknowledge receipt of the Truckee Meadows Regional Trails Plan, developed by Truckee Meadows Trails Initiative."