



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DATE: May 11, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Sophia Kirschenman, Park Planner,
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THROUGH: Eric Crump, Operations Division Director
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a Memorandum of Understanding Concerning a Trail along the Truckee River from Vista Boulevard to Mustang Road between Washoe County and Tahoe Pyramid Trail, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization for the purpose of working together to plan the design, construction and maintenance of, and obtain necessary permits and funding for a non-motorized multi-use trail along the Truckee River from Sparks to Mustang. Washoe County is not committing funding to the project under this MOU other than staff time as available for planning assistance. (Commission District 4.)

SUMMARY

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would establish a formal collaboration between Tahoe Pyramid Trail, Inc. (TPT) and Washoe County Parks for the planning of a 5-mile segment of the Tahoe Pyramid Trail between Larkin Circle in Sparks to Mustang Road. If approved, the MOU will remain in effect indefinitely unless one or both parties terminate.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

May 4, 2021 – The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission (Parks Commission) recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approve an MOU between Washoe County and Tahoe Pyramid Trail, Inc. to plan a 5-mile segment of the Tahoe Pyramid Trail.

September 24, 2019 – The Board adopted the 2019 Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

June 24, 2008 – The Board adopted the Open Space and Natural Resource Management Plan.

BACKGROUND

Since 2003, Tahoe Pyramid Trail, Inc. (TPT), 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has been leading the charge to construct a trail along the Truckee River, from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. At present, approximately 80% of the trail is complete. One of the key missing portions of the trail extends from Larkin Circle in Sparks to Mustang Road. There

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are several challenges related to this potential segment of the trail, including Union Pacific Railroad crossings and permitting requirements from the Nevada Department of Transportation. Representatives from TPT have requested planning assistance and collaboration with Washoe County Parks. If approved, this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would establish the roles and responsibilities related to this collaboration.

Specifically, Washoe County Parks would agree to apply for applicable grants and funding on behalf of TPT when only governmental agencies are eligible; to submit applications for easements and encroachment permits when only governmental agencies are eligible; and to satisfy permitting requirements for permits to be held by the County. TPT would prepare engineering, surveying, and other supporting materials for grant applications, funding opportunities, and permits to be sought by Washoe County Parks or TPT.

Washoe County support of the Tahoe Pyramid Trail is identified in both the 2019 Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plan (Parks Master Plan) and the 2008 Open Space and Natural Resource Management Plan (OSNRMP). Both plans state that Washoe County should support completion of outstanding segments of the Tahoe Pyramid Trail. The Parks Master Plan also states that it is a priority for Washoe County Parks to acquire lands along the Truckee River to protect or enhance the corridor for recreation, wildlife, and water quality purposes. The trail alignment is also identified in the Regional Transportation Commission's 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.

While Washoe County Parks staff do not have the capacity to assume responsibility for the construction or maintenance of this trail, staff can assist with planning efforts. This MOU outlines the terms of the collaboration and is consistent with the goals and priorities in the Parks Master Plan and the OSNRMP.

FISCAL IMPACT

Washoe County is not committing funding to the project under this MOU other than staff time as available for planning assistance.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve a Memorandum of Understanding Concerning a Trail along the Truckee River from Vista Boulevard to Mustang Road between Washoe County and Tahoe Pyramid Trail, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization for the purpose of working together to plan the design, construction and maintenance of, and obtain necessary permits and funding for a non-motorized multi-use trail along the Truckee River from Sparks to Mustang. Washoe County is not committing funding to the project under this MOU other than staff time as available for planning assistance.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve a Memorandum of Understanding Concerning a Trail along the Truckee River from Vista Boulevard to Mustang Road between Washoe County and Tahoe Pyramid Trail, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization for the purpose of working together to plan the design, construction and maintenance of, and obtain necessary permits and funding for a non-motorized multi-use trail along the Truckee River from Sparks to Mustang. Washoe County is not committing funding to the project under this MOU other than staff time as available for planning assistance."