

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: July 17, 2009

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Book Item 2.2c (2)
Action

Ref: Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report for the Tahoe City Transit Center Project (Resolution E-09-62)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Tahoe City Transit Center Project (project) and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Commission accept the Recirculated FEIR and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND: The project, an intermodal transit center and a paved parking lot with 130 spaces for transit and other transit improvements, is located on the northwest portion of what is known as the 64-Acre Tract in Tahoe City. The project lies approximately 860 feet to the southwest of the intersection of State Route (SR) 89 and SR 28. With the exception of two open-faced bus shelters located on either side of SR 28 in downtown Tahoe City, no other public facilities support the local transit system in the vicinity of the project site.

The County of Placer (County), as the lead agency for CEQA compliance, completed a FEIR in August 2000. In response to comments from the public, the County Board of Supervisors (Board) directed that further study of alternative sites be performed. After study by the County and further direction by the Board, the County added ten alternative sites to be studied further and the Board voted to recirculate the FEIR to inform agencies and the public of any significant environmental effects associated with the project. On January 24, 2006 the Recirculated FEIR was approved by the Board.

The Recirculated FEIR identified certain impacts that required mitigation to be reduced to a less than significant level. Examples of these impacts are traffic and transit delays due to the forecasted need for left turns at SR 89 and River Access Road; increased access to the Truckee River due to additional parking; increased pedestrians crossing SR 89 potentially impacting traffic circulation; temporary air quality impacts during construction; water quality impacts related to storm water management system design; noise annoyances as perceived by recreational trail users; visual impacts as a result of a new transit building; disturbance and paving of historical and cultural resources; and increases in public services to control parking and provide safety of pedestrians crossing SR 89.

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The Board found that all significant or potentially significant impacts can be reduced by mitigation measures to a level characterized as less than significant. As a result, the Board adopted a Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Plan to apply all mitigation measures adopted with respect to the project.

Examples of mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, providing a left-turn pocket/acceleration lane along SR 89 at the River Access Road intersection constructed to Caltrans design standards; implementing a parking management program to address combined needs of the intermodal transit center, recreation users and the community; enforcing parking restrictions by the Placer County Sheriff's Department and the Forest Service; complying with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency standards limiting the length of vehicle idling and restrictions on open burning and other regulations during construction; incorporating changes in the project design to address water quality impacts; constructing a landscaping plan designed to reduce noise and visual impacts; including cultural resources that retain interpretive value of the region's history in the site design and employing a qualified archaeologist.

This project is programmed in the Proposition 1B State and Local Partnership Program (SLPP). The County has provided written confirmation that the preferred alternative set forth in the FEIR is consistent with the project scope of work programmed by the Commission.

The project is estimated to cost \$8,250,496. The project is anticipated to be funded with SLPP (\$226,000), Proposition 1B Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement Account (\$384,826), Federal (\$6,155,130), and Local (\$1,484,540) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2009/10.

Attachments

- Resolution E-09-62
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Consideration of Funding

03-Pla-89, PM 8.5/9.0

Resolution E-09-62

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the County of Placer (County) has completed a Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Tahoe City Transit Center Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the County Board of Supervisors has certified that the Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project would provide an intermodal transit center, a paved parking lot with 130 spaces for transit and other transit improvements; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the County Board of Supervisors found that all significant or potentially significant impacts can be reduced by mitigation measures to a less than significant level; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the project.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Recirculated Final Environmental Impact Report and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

PLACER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

TAHOE CITY TRANSIT CENTER VINCINTY MAP

VICINITY AND LOCATION MAP

