

Residents get upclose view about Tahoe transportation

By Kathryn Reed

It was a who's who of transportation gathered in one room to disseminate information in a casual format.

Tahoe Transportation District officials assembled the players who affect transit in the Lake Tahoe Basin for two nights of open houses. Wednesday's was in South Lake Tahoe, Thursday's was in Tahoe City.



People learn about Lake Tahoe transportation issues on Jan. 19.

Photo/Kathryn Reed

Meandering through the foyer of Duke Theatre on the campus of Lake Tahoe Community College, citizens were engaging the decision-makers, planners, consultants and agency employees about what is coming down the pike as well as what they would like to see happen.

Scott Morgan with Douglas County Parks and Recreation Department was paired with Peter Eichar of the California

Tahoe Conservancy to talk about bike trails.

At the far end was Karen Fink with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency dispensing information about what is being done to reduce green house gas emissions.

In between them was Donaldo Palaroan with El Dorado County talking about the quarter mile of Class 1 bike trail that will be laid this construction season from Lake Tahoe Boulevard to Echo View Estates on Sawmill Road. The Echo View Estates to Highway 50 portion comes in 2012.

"We figured fewer people would come if there were talking heads," Carl Hasty, TTD executive director, said.

No speeches were made. People could come and go at their own pace, reading the material or talking to representatives.

People had to literally rub elbows for much of the night Jan. 19. This format allowed people who might not like to speak in a formal setting or in public to ask questions one-on-one with people who had the answers.

Other representatives at the open houses included people from the jurisdictions where the meetings were located (South Lake Tahoe on Wednesday, Placer County on Thursday), BlueGo and Tahoe Area Regional Transit, U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Caltrans.

Information about water transit and the Highway 50 loop road were available ,too.