

August 16, 2012

The Honorable Claire Fortier, Mayor
Honorable Members of the City Council
Tom Davis, Mayor Pro Tem
Angela Swanson
Bruce Grego
Hal Cole
City of South Lake Tahoe
1901 Airport Rd., Suite 206
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

cc: Nancy Kerry, City Manager
Hilary Roverud, Director of Planning Services

**Re: Your Correspondence of July 5, 2012
U.S. 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project**

Dear Mayor Fortier and Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD), thank you for your letter of July 5th.

The purpose of this letter is to summarize the steps we have taken in response to your comments, suggestions, and specific recommendations which we welcome and agree with. **Key requests in your letter are shown in bold type.** Corresponding *TTD actions are summarized in italics.*

We strongly urge you to pause and refocus the US 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project.

At the July 20 TTD Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to direct staff to suspend the process of bringing additional consulting expertise on board until September and instead convene working sessions of the project partners, in order to collectively pause, reflect on input received, and refocus. We anticipate a key outcome of this effort will be the development and review of a new consensus path forward.

Without delay, we request TTD implement the following:

Using a neutral facilitator, conduct public workshops comprehensively reviewing the most viable project alternatives.

As of this writing, we anticipate the TTD Board will consider retaining the services of a skilled experienced neutral facilitator as an action item at their September 14 meeting.

Include at least three reasonable project designs in the environmental review process.

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In collaboration with all of its project partners, TTD is prepared to undertake this effort. We anticipate the TTD Board will consider authorizing the necessary technical studies as an action item at their September 14 meeting. A variety of technical studies are required to adequately define potential new alternatives in order to be included in the environmental review and analysis process.

Use a qualified independent consulting firm to objectively evaluate the proposed alternatives for the short and long term economic impacts to the City of South Lake Tahoe and South Shore community.

The TTD is prepared to embark upon a process to develop a Scope of Work for the economic studies and analysis requested by the City and other project partners, as well as members of the public. Such an analysis is an important part of an Environmental Document. The work will certainly include an analysis of project alternatives, and encompass potential impacts, positive or negative, on the South Shore community within the scope of the project. We commit to working with project partners in developing the Scope of Work. The TTD also commits to using a “qualified independent consulting firm” and may take steps to identify such a firm as part of its September 14 Board meeting.

Address the City’s comments regarding the Proposed Relocation Plan.

As requested by the City and others, the TTD is prepared to undertake the development of additional project alternatives. This process will take a period of time and the number of alternatives formally analyzed in the project environmental document will increase. Once other alternatives are selected, we anticipate a revision to the Relocation Plan study to include an analysis of related alternative needs.

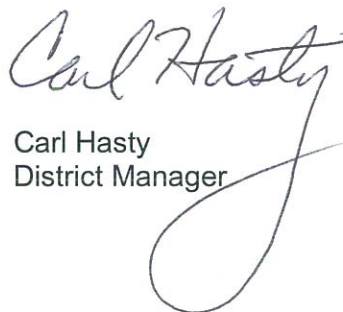
The Board and staff of the Tahoe Transportation District sincerely wish to thank the City Council and staff for your letter of July 5, your input, and recommendations. As you and others have requested, we are prepared to “engage the community more thoughtfully.” Our mutual goal is to have a broader range of alternatives from which to choose, supported by a public engagement process that is informed by current economic assessments, as well as environmental analysis.

As we move forward with the steps summarized above, we respectfully request that the City’s Redevelopment Successor Agency retain the parcels pursuant to AB 1484 and identified as APNs # 029-170-01 and 029-170-02. These parcels may factor into the development of one or more new alternatives. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the City and other project partners on efforts to revitalize the South Shore of Lake Tahoe.

Very sincerely yours,

Steve Teshara
Chair, Board of Directors



Carl Hasty
District Manager