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November/December 2019 Newsletter

Friends of the West Shore works toward the preservation, protection, and conservation of the West Shore of Lake Tahoe, our watershed, wildlife, and rural quality of life, for today and future generations.

While it appears planning activities for projects that will affect the west shore have slowed down for the remainder of 2019, the winter/spring of 2020 will bring several important environmental review documents and other planning activities back to the forefront. Actions that FOWS will be following include, but are not limited to:

Planning:

- Meeks Bay Resort and Marina Restoration Project
- SR 89 Transportation Corridor Plan (Tahoma to Camp Richardson)
- Tahoe Trail - West Shore (bike trail from Meeks Bay south through Emerald Bay)
- West Shore Pedestrian Crossings Project
- US Forest Service Winter Recreation and Over Snow Vehicle (Snowmobile) Travel Management Plan

Construction:

- Homewood Mountain Resort (schedule/status uncertain)
- Tahoe City Lodge
- West Shore Water Treatment Plant

Legal challenges:

- Martis Valley West Specific Plan
- Village at Squaw Valley Specific Plan

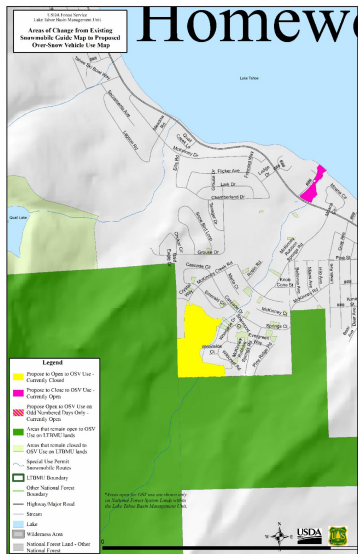
Please continue reading below for updates regarding these activities. As always, we look forward to your continued feedback and support, and encourage you to [contact us](#) with any additional ideas or questions you may have.

Sincerely,

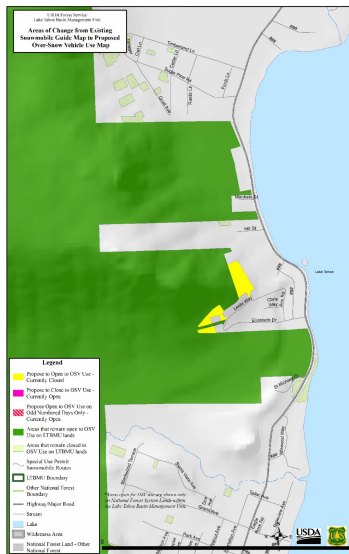
Judith Tornese,
President

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support the Friends of the West Shore every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile), you'll find the same benefits and ease of shopping on Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to FOWS. [Click here](#) to learn more. When you set up AmazonSmile to support FOWS, simply type Friends of the West Shore into the search bar and FOWS

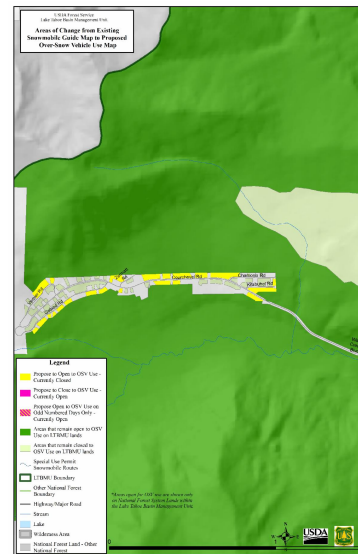
what environmental and recreational impacts the environmental review (an [Environmental Assessment](#)) should analyze.



Tahoma area



Near Kaspian Recreation Area



Ward Creek Area

Fanny Bridge/SR 89 Realignment:

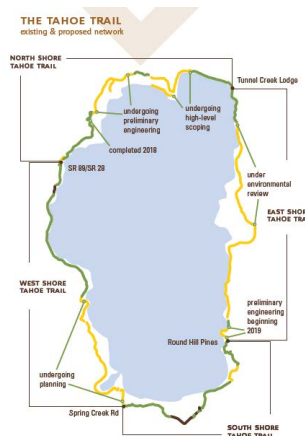
The new highway segment, new Truckee River Bridge, and two roundabouts on either end of the realignment [are now open](#) . The replacement of Fanny Bridge and changes to the Tahoe City Wye will not occur this year and have been delayed due to a variety of reasons including weather, high lake levels, utilities, and contractual changes with the construction company. At this time, the Tahoe Transportation District [reports](#) the balance of the project will go out to bid in 2020 and be completed in 2021. [Read more here.](#)

Tahoe Trail - West Shore:

Starting in 2020, the TRPA and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will be completing a feasibility study for the [remaining section](#) of the Tahoe Trail bike path along the west shore. This section would connect from Spring Creek Road (near Baldwin Beach/Camp Richardson) through Emerald Bay to Meeks Bay. The study will look at possible routes based on factors such as slope, grade, rideability, and more. An environmental analysis will then be completed.

West Shore Highway Crossing Improvements:

Placer County is working on a plan to improve pedestrian and cyclist crossings along SR 89 from Tahoma to Tahoe City. The [Preliminary Design Report](#) reviews existing conditions and recommends measures to be taken at fourteen crossings. Placer County expects to hold additional public meetings and construct the project in 2020.



State Route 89 Corridor Planning (Tahoma to South Lake Tahoe):

The draft SR 89 Corridor Plan, which will address options to improve traffic and pedestrian conditions in the future (especially at Emerald Bay), is now anticipated this winter as contracting issues and personnel changes created delays. TRPA anticipates another stakeholder workshop, public open house, and webinar on the project this January before the draft plan is released. Read details [here](#) .

Other projects:

- [Alpine Meadows-Squaw Valley Base-to-Base Gondola](#) - There are no new updates.
- [Homewood Mountain Resort](#) - There are no new updates.

- [Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership](#) - The Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership has completed a strategy to guide forest restoration activities along Lake Tahoe's West Shore with the goal of increasing the resilience of the landscape and to protect against prolonged drought, climate change, and extreme fire. The Partnership is now working on a proposed action for upcoming environmental review.
- [Martis Valley West Specific Plan](#) - There are no new updates.
- [Old Tahoe City Firehouse](#) - The property includes Former Fire Station 51, the Visitor Center and Tahoe Community Center located on Commons Beach in Tahoe City. The recent [feasibility study](#) addressing two proposed project concepts concluded that neither project is financially viable as proposed and significant financial assistance would be required.
- [Tahoe City Lodge](#) - The old Henrikson building has been demolished, and construction of the Tahoe City Lodge is anticipated in 2020.
- [Tahoe Keys Proposed Herbicide Use](#) - There are no new updates.
- [Village at Squaw Valley Specific Plan](#) - There are no updates related to the lawsuit against the Village project. However, if you missed it in our last newsletter, don't forget to check out the "Keep Squaw True" movie, [now available to stream online](#).
- [West Shore Water Treatment Plant](#) - Construction of the [West Shore Water Treatment Plant](#) on Lodge St. and SR 89 is expected in 2020.

Regional and local planning updates:

"ONE TAHOE" Transportation Funding Initiative:

The Basin is impacted by **50 million vehicle trips per year**, resulting in air and water pollution and threats to public safety.

[ONE TAHOE](#) is an initiative to complete funding on a long-awaited extensive transportation system that will enhance the traveling experience (choices of transit, bike/pedestrian trails, auto, water borne) throughout the greater Lake Tahoe Region while protecting Lake Tahoe's natural beauty. For decades, funding available for a comprehensive transportation system has consistently fallen far short (current estimates indicate a shortfall of \$67 million per year). ONE TAHOE aims to develop new consistent and reliable funding strategies. [A list of ideas regarding funding mechanisms developed from public outreach to date is currently being analyzed](#) . Public comments are encouraged!



Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer to help Lake Tahoe? The League to Save Lake Tahoe is seeking West Shore volunteers to assist with the "Pipe Keeper" program, where community members are trained to assess and monitor the condition of storm water infrastructure and collect storm water samples for analysis during storm and snow-melting events. FOWS was a founding partner of this program. Training events are held in both south and north shore locations. Learn more [here](#) .

Other ways to support FOWS:

eScrip (previously SHARES):



The eScrip program allows shoppers to designate FOWS to receive donations earned through their purchases; up to 5% of your purchase will be donated to FOWS at no cost to you. Sign up through [this link](#) .

** Unfortunately, Save Mart discontinued its participation in the eScrip/S.H.A.R.E.S. program. However, numerous stores throughout California and online retailers ([see list](#)) will continue to participate!*

We invite you to contact us to learn more, ask questions, or simply get to know the FOWS Board.

Please contact Jennifer Quashnick, FOWS Conservation Consultant, at: jqtahoe@sbcglobal.net , or Judith Tornese, FOWS President, at: jmtornese@aol.com .

Friends of the West Shore | www.friendswestshore.org.

