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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 15, 2017  
To: TRPA Governing Board  
From: TRPA Staff  
Subject: Approval of Work Plan for the Transportation Measures Working Group

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Requested Action: The Governing Board (GB) is asked to review and provide direction to staff in the form of an approval of the Work Plan for the Transportation Measures Working Group.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the GB review and approve the work plan for the Transportation Measures Working Group.

Background: The Lake Tahoe Region's transportation system is a central component of residents' quality of life and visitors' experiences. It is also intimately tied to the region's economy and environmental health. Increased visitation in recent years has brought transportation related issues (e.g., congestion, safety, traffic volume) to the forefront of stakeholder concerns, and has motivated suggestions for a host of new policies to address the concerns. Informed policy discussions are built on a common understanding of the issues. Rather than adopting new policy in haste, there is a clear need to understand both the suite of concerns being raised by stakeholders, and how those concerns relate to the transportation system. At their February 22, 2017 meeting, the TRPA Governing Board Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) committee endorsed the creation of a transportation measures working group to survey the transportation measures landscape, identifying the TRPA Advisory Planning Commission (APC) as the convening body for the working group. The working group was charged with surveying the transportation measures landscape to identify the state of the practice for measuring and reporting on a range of transportation-related issues. The Board asked that the working group reach out to experts and transportation managers at local, regional, state, and federal levels to understand how transportation measures are used and misused, and that the working group provide a white paper on the state of the practice to the Board by their July 2017 meeting to inform future discussions and ultimately, decision making.

Advisory Planning Commission Action: At their March 8, 2017 meeting, the APC reviewed and discussed the proposed work plan. Members of APC as well as stakeholders provided additional suggestions for engagement of additional organizations. Through APC and stakeholder comment, the proposed Taxonomy was also refined. APC unanimously recommended GB approval of the work plan as amended during the March 8<sup>th</sup> discussion. The final work plan that incorporates those amendments is included as Attachment A of this staff summary.

Contact Information: If you have any questions, please contact Lucia Maloney, Senior Planner at [lmaloney@trpa.org](mailto:lmaloney@trpa.org) or (775) 589-5324; or Dan Segan, Principal Natural Resource Analyst at [dsegan@trpa.org](mailto:dsegan@trpa.org) or (775) 589-5233.

Attachments:

- A. Work Plan

Attachment A  
Work Plan

# Work Plan

March 22, 2017



## Transportation Measures Working Group



*A Voice for Lake Tahoe*

# Introduction

The Lake Tahoe Region’s transportation system is a central component of residents’ quality of life and visitors’ experiences. It is also intimately tied to the region’s economy and environmental health. Increased visitation in recent years has brought transportation related issues (e.g., congestion, safety, traffic volume) to the forefront of stakeholder concerns.

TRPA received significant feedback on the Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) standard during development of the 2015 Threshold Evaluation Report. The Regional VMT standard establishes a goal of a 10% reduction of total VMT in the basin from 1981 levels. The standard was assessed as “in attainment” and has been assessed as “in attainment” in every threshold evaluation report since 2007. Stakeholder feedback contained recommendations for additional VMT-based standards, and suggestions for how VMT could be used to evaluate projects or guide policy. The feedback was motivated by a suite of concerns ranging from water quality to noise, for which stakeholders perceived the VMT standard to be the closest surrogate.

Recent federal legislation including the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. No. 114-94) and Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) Act has also prompted renewed thinking on how the performance of transportation systems are measured. Lake Tahoe’s designation as a Transportation Management Agency (TMA) under the FAST Act requires development of a Congestion Management Process (CMP) and additional strengthening of the Region’s performance-based planning framework. Both federal laws include target-setting in coordination with Caltrans and NDOT. Additional California state requirements, SB 375 (greenhouse gas reduction requirements) and SB 743 (modification of transportation related CEQA requirements), are also changing the transportation measures landscape.

Informed policy discussions are built on a common understanding of the issues. Rather than adopting new policy in haste, there is a clear need to understand the suite of concerns being raised by stakeholders and to better understand how those concerns relate to the transportation system. Within the Basin, this need extends to building a common evidence-base around the state of the practice for use of transportation measures and the complex interplay of drivers (e.g. consumer behavior, regional employment, and economy) that influence individual measures of transportation performance, and to provide a forum where stakeholders can discuss those issues.

At their February 22, 2017 meeting, the TRPA Governing Board Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) committee endorsed the creation of a working group to address the need identified above. They endorsed the TRPA Advisory Planning Commission as the convening body for the transportation measures working group, and charged the working group with surveying the transportation measures landscape to identify the state of the practice for measuring and reporting on a range of transportation-related issues. The Board asked that the working group engage transportation experts and professionals at local, regional, state, and federal levels to understand how transportation measures are used and misused, and that the working group provide a white paper on the state of the practice to the Board by the July 2017 Board meeting to inform future discussions and ultimately decision making.

The mission, work plan schedule, products, and scope of the survey are discussed in more detail in the following sections. This work plan and recommendations for the Advisory Planning Commission convened Transportation Measures Working Group are scheduled for presentation by TRPA staff at the March 2017 Governing Board meeting. The work plan will be reviewed periodically and, if necessary, will be updated.

Approved by the TRPA Governing Board \_\_\_\_\_

## Mission

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Survey the transportation landscape to compile data and concepts on transportation measures and prepare a state of the practice white paper that can be used to inform future transportation policy decisions, including those related to congestion management.

## Product

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Produce a white paper synthesizing the information obtained from the survey of the transportation measures landscape. The white paper shall identify state of the practice (and best practices where they exist) on individual transportation system performance measures and how they are used.

## Work Plan

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The work plan is summarized in the table below. The table illustrates the headline milestones, agenda, and scheduled meetings proposed within this Transportation Measures Working Group work plan. The work plan was endorsed by the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) on March 8, 2017. Staff will present the proposed work plan to the TRPA Governing Board for their approval on March 22, 2017. Work will begin immediately, with staff presentations on existing and federally or state-required measures in April. During the first two months of the work plan, staff will lead a survey of the landscape and the compilation of measures and information on the state of the practice from around the country. The survey of the landscape will be presented at the working group's May meeting, alongside presentation(s) by leading experts in the field of transportation measurement. The work plan will conclude with a staff presentation of the draft white paper in June, and a finalized white paper for Working Group approval in July. The finalized white paper is scheduled to be presented by staff to the TRPA Governing Board at their July meeting.

## Meetings

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The working group will meet monthly between March 2017 and July 2017. The meetings will be scheduled on the same day as the monthly APC meetings and publicly noticed along with the APC meeting. All working group meetings will be open to the public. The anticipated schedule of meetings will include the working group meeting immediately following the APC meeting. The final meeting in July, will be scheduled so that the final white paper produced and endorsed by the working group can be considered by the APC.

## Working Group Composition

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The transportation measures working group shall be comprised of the following representatives, and all members of the public are invited to attend working group meetings and participate in discussions:

- All Advisory Planning Commission (APC) members;
- One representative from the environmental community; and,
- One representative from the business and tourism community.

Approved by the TRPA Governing Board \_\_\_\_\_

**TRANSPORTATION MEASURES WORKING GROUP WORK PLAN**

		TIMELINE AND HEADLINE MILESTONES				
		March 2017	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017	July 2017
Actions and Commitments	Headline Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work Plan Recommendation</li> <li>Mission</li> <li>Group Composition</li> <li>Milestones</li> <li>Taxonomy</li> <li>Scope of Survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threshold Measures</li> <li>Baseline Federal/State Requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey of the Landscape within Taxonomy</li> <li>Technical Expert Presentation</li> <li>Draft Measures List for Draft White Paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and Discuss the Draft White Paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed White Paper to Guide GB Transportation Policy Decisions</li> </ul>
	Workshop Agenda	<p>a) <b>Staff Presentation:</b> Work Plan Synthesizing February APC Discussion</p> <p>b) <b>Activity:</b> Review workplan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mission</li> <li>Group Composition</li> <li>Milestones</li> <li>Taxonomy</li> <li>Scope of Survey</li> </ul> <p>c) <b>Work Plan Recommendation</b></p>	<p>a) <b>Staff Presentation:</b> Summary of last Working Group meeting and work plan update</p> <p>b) <b>Staff Presentation:</b> Transportation-related Regional Plan Performance Measures and Thresholds: (1) How We Use Them, (2) How Others Use Them</p> <p>c) <b>Staff Presentation:</b> Baseline Federal/State Requirements</p> <p>d) <b>Activity:</b> Gap Identification</p>	<p>a) <b>Staff Presentation:</b> Summary of last Working Group meeting and work plan update</p> <p>b) <b>Staff Presentation:</b> State of the practice synthesis of transportation measures, focus on identified gaps</p> <p>c) <b>Technical Expert Presentation:</b> State of the Practice</p> <p>d) <b>Activity:</b> Review Draft Measures List for Draft White Paper</p>	<p>a) <b>Staff Presentation:</b> Draft White Paper</p>	<p>a) <b>Staff Presentation:</b> Final White Paper</p>

## Taxonomy & Scope of Synthesis

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Through review of performance measures utilized in local, state and federal programs, the following categories are recommended to serve as the taxonomy for the survey of the landscape and ultimate scope of the synthesis review. Examples are provided as to the type of measures that could fall under these categories.

1. Environment (e.g. GHG emissions, pollutant loading, noise)
2. Reliance on Automobile (e.g. mode share, public transit ridership, miles of non-auto paths)
3. Safety (e.g. crashes, fatalities, evacuation)
4. Congestion (e.g. levels of service)
5. Quality of Life (e.g. affordability index, travel time to work, visitor experience)
6. State of Good Repair (e.g. infrastructure condition)

## Scope of Survey – Engagement and Outreach

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The working group will be charged with the surveying the landscape of transportation measures. A key component of the survey will be engagement and outreach to technical experts and other organizations in the transportation field to inform understanding of the state of the practice. The following entities have been identified to serve as sources for measures:

- **Federal**
  - Federal Highways (FHWA)
  - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- **State**
  - California (Caltrans, CALCOG, CA OPR)
  - Nevada (NDOT)
  - Florida (FDOT)
  - Oregon (ODOT)
  - Ohio (ODOT)
  - Tennessee (TDOT)
  - Colorado (CDOT)
- **Local Planning Organizations**
  - City of Aspen
  - Santa Cruz County
  - City of San Francisco
  - City of Pasadena
- **Other Organizations**
  - Transportation for America
  - Texas Transportation Institute (TTI)
  - Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)
  - United States Access Board
  - National Parks Service
  - Natural Resource Defense Council
- **Regional Transportation Planning Organizations**
  - Washoe RTC
  - Southern Nevada RTC
  - Carson Area MPO (CAMPO)
  - Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)
  - San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
  - San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
  - Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)
  - Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
  - Colorado Intermountain Planning Region
  - Broward MPO

Approved by the TRPA Governing Board \_\_\_\_\_



## Appendix A: Transportation Measures Working Group Roles and Responsibilities

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1. The working group is expected to meet monthly between March 2017 and July 2017.
2. Members of the working group are expected to attend every meeting or find an agreed upon replacement/alternate.
3. Members should review the materials before the meetings and come prepared for discussions. TRPA staff will disseminate meeting materials 5 business days before the meeting.
4. Members should act as project ambassadors and communicators to their individual networks. They should regularly solicit feedback to inform work tasks and build support towards successful outcomes.
5. Members shall offer informed recommendations.
6. The chair and vice chair will facilitate meeting progress, encourage robust civil dialogue, and find areas of agreement.
7. Members should share the air space during meeting discussions, should engage in civil dialogue, and work to find areas of agreement.