



# **TAHOE EL DORADO AREA PLAN**

**SEPTEMBER 2024 VIRTUAL WORKSHOP #2 SUMMARY**

## VIRTUAL WORKSHOP #2

**Date:** Thursday, September 12, 2024

**Time:** 5:30 – 6:40 pm PDT

**Platform:** Zoom Meeting

**Number of Attendees:** 38

### GENERAL SUMMARY

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On September 12, 2024, El Dorado County hosted a second virtual workshop on the Tahoe El Dorado (TED) Area Plan. At the workshop, the project team, consisting of El Dorado County and Ascent staff, presented overall updates on progress made-to-date, summarized community input from the online survey and first round of community workshops held in June 2024, and provided a preview of next steps in the process. Throughout the presentation, attendees were asked a series of questions and were given the opportunity to provide comments verbally, through the meeting chat, and via Slido—a digital polling tool. Attendees were asked polling questions where they shared feedback, reactions, and suggestions for outreach efforts. Following the presentation, the project team facilitated a question-and-answer session where attendees could ask any remaining questions they had on the plan or planning process.

When polled on past workshop attendance, 71 percent of the workshop attendees had also attended one or more of the workshops in June, with the majority (36 percent) having attended the Fallen Leaf Lake workshop. Twenty nine percent of the virtual workshop attendees had not attended a previous workshop on the TED Area Plan. When asked about their preferred form of engagement, attendees expressed an even split between wanting in-person and virtual outreach, with several expressing an interest in both. A few comments expressed wanting more focused engagement with Latino communities and native tribes. Some recurring topics that appeared throughout the discussion include road maintenance, environmental conservation and access, mitigating the impact of visitors, visitor management, enhancing partnership between various jurisdictions, and being able to access to the data collected from workshops.

This document summarizes the feedback and comments received during the virtual workshop.

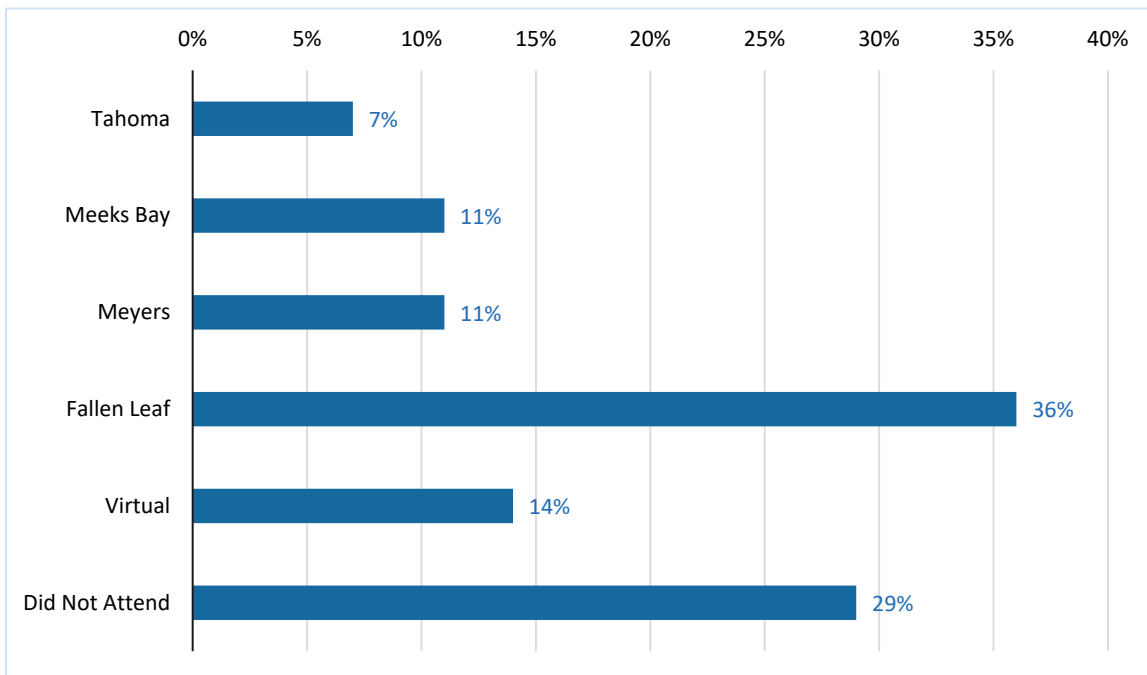
## RESULTS OF POLLING QUESTIONS

The following is a compilation of the comments received on the polling questions asked during the presentation. Attendees provided comments via Slido, verbally, and through the meeting chat.

### **DID YOU ATTEND THE JUNE WORKSHOPS? AND IF SO, WHICH WORKSHOP DID YOU ATTEND?**

Figure 1 below shows the past engagement of polling respondents. Note that respondents were able to vote for multiple options.

**FIGURE 1. SLIDO POLLING RESPONSE FOR PAST WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE**



NOTE: RESPONDENTS WERE ABLE TO VOTE FOR MULTIPLE OPTIONS.

### **ARE THERE ANY BIG POINTS MISSING FROM THIS SUMMARY? IS THERE FEEDBACK YOU EXPECTED TO SEE THAT YOU DIDN'T?**

#### **Transcription of Slido Comments**

- Boat trailer parking on county roads exists all summer. Isn't there a time limit for any parking? Cars, trailers, etc.? Enforcement?
- Enforcement of rules of road and fires. Nothing happens to violators.
- No comments about snow road closures and access to SO services when closed. Need to work with adjacent counties for transportation solutions. Water based transportation STRs not addressed.
- Anyone want to revisit allowing scooters again with better infrastructure?
- Much of this information and input is not really new and has been shared many times before (traffic, visitor impacts, etc.).

- I was expecting a clear distinction between recreation and conservation. They were merged for efficiency in the workshops but are quite different for intention, purpose and specific implementation measures. Indeed recreation can be a negative impact on values of conservation.
- Fuel reduction on hillside below angora ridge
- Nothing missing. Glad to see the level of participation, especially from my home which is Fallen Leaf.
- Fallen leaf lake road maintenance
- No

**Transcription of Verbal Comments**

- One thing missing is providing enough resources for the enforcement of laws. There is a lack of this in Fallen Leaf and too many people are doing things that are not allowed like building campfires. There needs to be a separate area on how to get resources to enforce rules to better manage the visitors and citizens in each area. There needs to be more resources dedicated to enforcement of the existing regulations regarding trail use, parking, camping, and campfires, e-bike use on trails, non-motorized boats, etc.

**Transcription of Chat Comments**

- There needs to be more resources dedicated to enforcement of the existing regulations regarding to trail use, parking, camping and campfires, e-Bike use on trails, clean drain-drain dry non-motorized boats, etc.
- Dark skies approved lighting on the Hwy 50 entrance to Meyers

**ARE THERE OTHER WAYS YOU WANT TO ENGAGE IN THE FUTURE? WOULD YOU PREFER MORE IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE?**

Table 1 below summarizes attendees’ preference for in-person or virtual engagement in the future. Note that respondents who expressed interest in both in-person and virtual engagements had their votes count for both categories.

**TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF PREFERRED FORMS OF ENGAGEMENT**

PREFERED FORM OF ENGAGEMENT	COUNT	PERCENTAGE
IN-PERSON	10	47.6%
VIRTUAL	11	52.4%
<b>TOTAL COMMENTS</b>	21	100%

NOTE: RESPONDENTS WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENTS HAD THEIR VOTES COUNT FOR BOTH CATEGORIES.

### **Transcription of Slido Comments**

- Engage Latino and native tribes
- It will be good to see interpretation of the feedback and how you see it translating to new policy
- In person with food
- In person
- Engage Latinx community
- The numbers that were involved is quite small. Try more virtual with a mailer reminder. In person in spring.
- In person
- In person when possible
- Virtual is best but what you've been doing with local and virtual has been super. Thank you so much for doing this. You are doing a great job thanks
- 1. monthly virtual meetings 2. In-person quarterly meetings with open mike for whole group
- I appreciate virtual but do feel like as you get into Phase 3 in person along with virtual would be good
- More in person please. I was out of town for several of the physical workshops.
- Both!
- Virtual
- In person workshops better than virtual for most in summer. Winter is a better opportunity for virtual
- More virtual opportunities.
- Virtual

### **Transcription of Chat Comments**

- In person seems a little more productive for attendees, though virtual helps for reporting out to people. So both!
- Virtual is always good

## QUESTIONS FROM ATTENDEES AND ANSWERS FROM THE PROJECT TEAM

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The following is a compilation of the questions asked during the Q&A session and throughout the presentation, along with their respective responses. Attendees asked questions through Slido, the meeting chat, and verbally.

### **How will the TED area plan be coordinated with the TRPA area plan? Will the TRPA plan supersede the TED plan?**

TRPA really is the bistate authority in the Tahoe Basin. Counties and cities also have rulesets that govern certain things. Land use and protection of the basin from an environmental standpoint are what TRPA really governs. They have environmental thresholds and mandates that they attempt to maintain. Things like wildlife and water quality are important aspects of what we do and how we live our lives in Tahoe. Chapter 13 of the Code of Ordinances has a ruleset for area Plans (traditionally like a community plan) and that's what we're talking about tonight. Given TRPA is the umbrella agency for the regional government, their ruleset for area plans must be developed with their guidelines and framework, so TED will comply with TRPA rules. We won't be able to counter a TRPA-governed rule. What we can do is get more specifics and get into neighborhood character, as well as create substitute standards with lesser impacts on the environment, coverage, and design. We can get into specific contexts in TED. We can also have an implementation chapter where we set the goals and policies in our rulesets and talk about how we can get there. There can be partner projects with USFS or private, such as an affordable housing project. If TED is done right, our customers will not need to go to TRPA for answers. They can come to the County because our ruleset will be consistent with County and TRPA rules, which is not the case currently. Getting the rules and incentives consistent leads to economic development and forward progress.

### **It sounded like the "implementation plan" might be optional. Can we ensure that it is definitely included?**

We will be including an implementation chapter in the plan. Meyers has an implementation chapter that could be a good frame of reference.

### **Is there a budget for this project?**

There is a budget. Phase 1, which wraps up Sept 30 was completely paid for using a grant from the State that the County obtained. The next two phases will be paid through a combination of transient occupancy tax (collected from short-term rentals and hotel stays) and some affordable housing funds. Another grant from TRPA will pay for some of Phase 3. We are currently exploring other grant opportunities. We're attempting to pay for this as much as possible through discretionary sources of income from visitors and grants.

**Can you break out the nature (concern vs. enthusiasm) of comments with respect to trail network development - additional development, access by multiple modalities, enforcement as it relates to the foregoing, parking management, safety. Understanding that the USFS, and its partner agencies, leads on much of this, the conflict between preservation, environmental sustainability, safety, and economic development is real. How can the county help guide decision-making in future development such that it is not driven by economic development alone.**

This concern not only applies to Fallen Leaf, but also throughout our jurisdiction and gets to the root of a lot of our issues. Tahoe is a visitor destination and so there is a lot of pressure on those living here. More recreation, trails, and visitors is not always better. What we are trying to do is balance economic development with environmental conservation, and safety with allowing more access to public land. The County only plays one role in the basin. We have multiple layers of authority: USFS, State Parks, TRPA, Counties, Cities. We have some of the most complicated political boundaries and jurisdictional boundaries anywhere. When we have a bike path that goes from point A to point B, it might cross 3-4 jurisdictional boundaries; we can't just stop a trail at the end of our jurisdiction. We do act in a collaborative fashion in the basin. We don't do anything in a vacuum. We will perform all actions we can as a County to implement what the community wants and what's best based on how this TED will develop. We will act with our partner agencies to fill in the blank, build better trailheads, use better signage, protect our resources. Regarding limiting visitor access, we cannot close public roads to certain people due to court case rulings, but we can think of pilot projects or trying something new.

**I interpreted Ruth's question to be an ask for a breakout of sentiment recorded. How much was for more trail access vs. for more limit of access? Is there a way to see some analysis of that?**

Looking at past public comments, it depends. There were comments on both sides. I would recommend scanning the workshop summary online. The questions asked were more about what improvements and amenities are needed. We also got a lot of general comments. Reading them directly is the best way to capture the tone of the comments. In some places we heard more, and some places heard less. Different communities felt different. For example, in Fallen Leaf we heard less trails. In Meyers, a more populated area, it made more sense that they generally wanted more connectivity. Meeks Bay wanted more options for those types of trails given that traffic is an issue on the west shore.

**A "master plan" or county general plan has a set of mandatory elements. Housing transportation and recreation are among those but others must be included. What will the Conservation Element consist of? This is conservation in the spirit of John Muir — nurturing the natural environment not developing it by adding housing, adding bike trails, adding recreation opportunities. When will an outline of the elements be available in the coming year?**

TRPA governs the area plan process and has a set list of requirements that need to be covered in each element of an area plan. That does not leave out conservation. There are 4 specific requirements TRPA requires. 1) Plan out goals, policies, and programs to achieve conservation goals and policies that are directed in TRPA's regional plan. 2) Provide a strategy for protecting Stream Environment Zones (SEZ) and other sensitive areas from development. 3) List planned, new, or enhanced Environmental Improvements Projects. 4) Provide a strategy to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions. There are also other topics that the TRPA recommends for the conservation element that we are considering, including noise, cultural resources, natural resources, and air quality. The County also focuses on water quality and improving that such as with roadway runoff. We also have standards for SEZ restoration and soil conservation. Unique to the Meyers plan, we created a tree preservation policy for the Juniper, so we would consider other unique-type conservation policies like that. We have an internal draft of the outline right now that

we will be finetuning into Phase 2. It might be several months until it's ready to share. It is a complicated process making sure we balance each community's uniqueness and figuring out how to organize. We have a great framework started with the Meyers area plan. I don't see this plan deviating too much from that so looking at the Meyers plan would give you a sense of what to expect from the TED area plan.

**How are the Washoe involved? (Comment provided anonymously via Slido)**

The Washoe Tribe is a key stakeholder. We have sent them numerous emails and hope to engage with them further throughout the development of the TED plan. We understand that tribes are special entities with a government-to-government relationship through things like AB 52. This will involve an Environmental Impact Report under the California Environmental Quality Act so we will be notifying them of our efforts through that as well. We have already been in touch and notifying them, but this is a formal legal process to see if they want to consult and be a part of this process. There's both informal and formal engagement. There are other partnerships like the Tahoe interagency committee which the Washoe Tribe is a part of. The County will also hopefully have conversations on potential land acquisitions if they're looking to relocate back to the basin. We can look at zoning for special heritage sites or cultural sites for tribal interests to ensure what they would like to do matches with that the TED says.

**How will the success of the plan be monitored in coming years? and will it be updated again in the future?**

Ultimately, the Board of Supervisors at the County, when they fund and direct staff to implement this plan, they should ask staff to return and report back. We should have metrics built into the plan and are required to report back on how we are doing in achieving these goals (example: build a certain miles of trails). Monitoring is built in through TRPA process and held accountable through the Board of Supervisors process. County staff want to create better communities, so we will hold ourselves accountable as residents. The plan will absolutely be updated in the future. We've made amendments to the Meyers Plan. We live in a dynamic world and want to take advantage of new laws and rules by updating the plan.

**It seems that the Echo Ridge/Echo Peak/Echo Lakes are within TED geography. I haven't heard much comment on that area nor a workshop; perhaps it is USFS not county?**

Those areas are outside of the Tahoe Basin and would not be included in the project area or in the TED plan. The boundaries skirt around in Echo; some are in, and some are out. A lot of the development there is on US Forest Service property. Once development is on County land, it's outside the basin, so it is a little outside of our scope.

**USFS operates with a MOU. Does El Dorado County operate with the TRPA with a MOU to satisfy all the requirements? We have some concern in trying to work with TRPA and Forest Service because they want to update their MOU but we haven't heard back on some of the thing because some of the approvals have fallen through the crack, so I want to make sure the MOU will be working when we do the plan.**

El Dorado County has several MOUs. One is for delegative authority to approve certain types of projects, such as this. We also have MOUs for road maintenance and activity, as well as others. El



Dorado County will be mandated to update our MOU with TRPA after the adoption of the TED. This will be a follow-up process. I can't speak to the USFS.

**How to maintain Cathedral Road? Who maintains Cathedral Road?**

Cathedral Road is not a county-maintained road since it's to the west side of Fallen Leaf Lake. County will need to confirm, but I believe it is a Forest Services road.

**Inconsistency between TRPA land use and county zoning are one key explanation for doing this TED. A parcel by parcel review is underway. What is the preliminary result and progress examining the problem?**

Yes, we are doing a consistency study looking at that very thing. At past workshops we pointed out a couple of inconsistencies. The final spreadsheet will be available online as part of the plan. Since most of the land is owned by Forest Services, if you looked at the area-wide analysis, most of it is consistent. Where we get issues is when we have places that are commercial in one plan but residential in another. Preliminarily, there are a lot of inconsistencies and different types of them. One type is an inconsistency between the TRPA Plan Area Statement and County zoning. Another inconsistency is between what is taking place on a parcel and what the Plan Area Statement or County zoning says should be on the parcel.

**Will these slides be available on the website?**

Yes, and the recording will be too.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

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The following is a transcription of general comments received throughout the workshop via Slido and the meeting chat

- There is an annual Tahoe State Park pass available for \$75/year and can be purchased at the State Park office in Tahoma.
- That pass won't get you into the beach at Meeks Bay, the old federal campground and beach. The operator of that facility is Meeks Bay Resort, \$175 for that annual pass now.
- More collaboration between county, city and regional entities.
- I love that you are seeking public comment. Any more quantitative analysis would be welcome.
- Thanks 🙏 much for carefully responding to questions. High quality effort this evening, appreciated.
- Lydell Wyatt has been hired as the new Washoe Tribal Liaison and will be working with the TED.