



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

[www.washoecounty.us](http://www.washoecounty.us)

## STAFF REPORT

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: May 4, 2021

**DATE:** April 26, 2021

**TO:** Open Space and Regional Parks Commission

**FROM:** Sophia Kirschenman, Park Planner,  
Community Services Dept., 328-3623, [skirschenman@washoecounty.us](mailto:skirschenman@washoecounty.us)

**THROUGH:** Eric Crump, Operations Division Director  
Community Services Department, 328-3625, [ecrump@washoecounty.us](mailto:ecrump@washoecounty.us)

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Washoe County and Tahoe Pyramid Trail, Inc. for the purpose of working together to plan the design, construction and maintenance of, and obtain necessary permits and funding for a non-motorized multi-use trail along the Truckee River from Sparks to Mustang. (Commission District 4.) (For Possible Action.)

---

### SUMMARY

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would establish a formal collaboration between Tahoe Pyramid Trail, Inc. (TPT) and Washoe County Parks for the planning of a 5-mile segment of the Tahoe Pyramid Trail.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

**September 24, 2019** – The Washoe County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) adopted the 2019 Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

**September 3, 2019** – The Open Space and Regional Parks Commission (Park Commission) recommended that the BCC adopt the 2019 Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

**June 24, 2008** – The BCC adopted the Open Space and Natural Resource Management Plan (OSNRMP).

**March 4, 2008** – The Park Commission recommended that the BCC adopt the Open Space and Natural Resource Management Plan.

### BACKGROUND

Since 2003, Tahoe Pyramid Trail, Inc. (TPT) has been leading the charge to construct a trail along the Truckee River, from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. At present, approximately 80% of the trail is complete. One of the key missing portions of the trail extends from Larkin Circle in Sparks to Mustang Road. There are several challenges

AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_

related to this potential segment of the trail, including Union Pacific Railroad crossings and permitting requirements from the Nevada Department of Transportation. Representatives from Tahoe Pyramid Trail have requested planning assistance and collaboration with Washoe County Parks. If approved, this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would establish the roles and responsibilities related to this collaboration.

Specifically, Washoe County Parks would agree to apply for applicable grants and funding on behalf of TPT when only governmental agencies are eligible; to submit applications for easements and encroachment permits when only governmental agencies are eligible; and to satisfy permitting requirements for permits to be held by the County. TPT would prepare engineering, surveying, and other supporting materials for grant applications, funding opportunities, and permits to be sought by Washoe County Parks or TPT.

Washoe County support of the Tahoe Pyramid Trail is identified in both the 2019 Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plan (Parks Master Plan) and the 2008 Open Space and Natural Resource Management Plan (OSNRMP). Both plans state that Washoe County should support completion of outstanding segments of the Tahoe Pyramid Trail. The Parks Master Plan also states that it is a priority for Washoe County Parks to acquire lands along the Truckee River to protect or enhance the corridor for recreation, wildlife and water quality purposes. Additionally, the OSNRMP includes goals to partner with the Nevada Rock Art Foundation to develop the Court of Antiquity petroglyph site and to provide a water-based trail system through the Truckee River corridor. The trail alignment is also identified in the Regional Transportation Commission's 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.

While Washoe County Parks staff do not have the capacity to assume responsibility for the construction or maintenance of this trail, they can assist with planning efforts. This MOU would outline the terms of the collaboration and be consistent with the goals and priorities in the Parks Master Plan and the OSNRMP.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

No fiscal impact.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Park Commission recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Washoe County and Tahoe Pyramid Trail, Inc. for the purpose of working together to plan the design, construction and maintenance of, and obtain necessary permits and funding for a non-motorized multi-use trail along the Truckee River from Sparks to Mustang.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Commission agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Washoe County and Tahoe Pyramid Trail, Inc. for the purpose of working together to plan the design, construction and maintenance of, and obtain

necessary permits and funding for a non-motorized multi-use trail along the Truckee River from Sparks to Mustang.”