



May 19, 2011

Eldorado County
Department of Transportation
Tahoe Engineering Division
924 B Emerald Bay Road
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Dear Mr. Ferry,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Lake Tahoe Boulevard Enhancement Program. The League supports an alternative that maximizes coverage reduction, improves water quality, protects stream environment zones (SEZ), and enhances alternative forms of transportation. After reviewing the different proposed alternatives, alternative 5 appears to be the best alternative to accomplish these objectives.

Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 increase impermeable surfaces by 71,352 sq. ft., 16,584 sq. ft., and 86,264 sq. ft. making these alternatives not acceptable options for the preferred alternative. A road reduction should result in an impermeable surface reduction. On the other hand, alternatives 4 and 5 reduce impermeable surfaces by 17,700 and 94,032 sq. ft. respectively.

The protection of SEZs is paramount and if there is an option to place a bike path outside an SEZ rather than in an SEZ, the former is the better environmental option. Alternatives 1, 3, and 4 all propose to place a bike path in an SEZ. The League recognizes that there is an existing dirt road in the SEZ where the bike path is proposed. Restoring this dirt road and keeping the bike lanes out of the SEZ is the best environmental choice. Alternative 5 is designed for bike lanes on the road rather than bike paths within the SEZ. It would be beneficial if the alternative could also include restoring the dirt road within the SEZ.

Alternative 5 proposes Class II bike lanes rather than Class I bike paths. For the purpose of alternative transportation, Class II bike lanes are preferable for bike commuters whereas Class I bike paths are more often preferred by recreationists who are not using the path to commute. The Class II bike lanes proposed in alternative 5 will likely be the best option for bike commuters and will more likely be cleared for winter travel.

Please feel free to contact the League with any questions at 530-541-5388.

Thank you,

Nicole Gergans
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