

## Appendix I

**Project Name:** Lake Tahoe Basin Origin & D Study and Travel Model    **EIP #:** 806

**Lead Agency:** U.S. Forest Service

**Contact:** Colin West

**Phone Number:** (530) 543-2675

**Threshold:** All

**Email Address:** [crwest@fs.fed.us](mailto:crwest@fs.fed.us)

**Threshold Standard:** Air Quality

**Total Project Cost:** \$800,000

**LTFAC/TWG Recommended Funding:**  
\$700,000

### **Project Description:**

The U.S. Forest Service, in partnership with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) as the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lake Tahoe Basin will complete the Origin and Destination Study, and update to the Lake Tahoe Travel Demand Model. The Origin and Destination Study (O&D Study) and the development of the Lake Tahoe Travel Demand Model will be conducted and overseen by the TRPA Transportation Division. The Origin and Destination Study will include surveying visitors and residents within the Lake Tahoe Basin Area. This includes recreational spots contiguous to the Basin such as Northstar at Tahoe. Development of the Lake Tahoe Travel Demand Model will include conversion of the existing model now in TRANPLAN software, to a Geographic Information Systems based software (TRANSCAD). Completion of a new model in TRANSCAD with inputs from the O&D Study, TRANPLAN model, and most current land use and demographic data available for the Basin and outlying areas.

### **Describe the purpose and need for this project:**

**Purpose:** Completion of the Origin and Destination Study and update to the Lake Tahoe Travel Demand Model are to gather travel information from visitors and residents traveling to and around the Lake Tahoe Basin. **Need:** An Origin and Destination Survey and Travel Demand Model were developed in 1974 (30 years ago) for Lake Tahoe. New software and survey techniques have been developed in the past few years for transportation planning and modeling that allow for a better understanding of trip generation and travel characteristics. In order to facilitate the best transportation planning and implementation methods possible, TRPA and its transportation planning partners, including the U.S. Forest Service, now find it necessary to update existing survey information. This information will be used as one of the inputs to create the new travel model using state-of-the-art modeling software. Survey data, which translates into travel characteristics, will be used in the model to determine travel patterns, travel demand, and mode preference. Analysis from the model will assist TRPA's Transportation Division and transportation planning partners, to facilitate effective and beneficial transportation planning for current and future multi-modal transportation needs, including air, bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and waterborne in and around the Lake Tahoe Basin.

**Describe the goals and objective of the project (For Science and Research Projects describe Key Management Questions being addressed)**

Goal: Provide accurate, real time transportation user information and analysis of that information for use in transportation planning in the Lake Tahoe Basin and its surrounding environs. Objective: To assist transportation planners within and outside of the Lake Tahoe Basin with the tools necessary to make meaningful decisions regarding development and implementation of multi-modal transportation projects and programs. Key Management Questions that could be addressed with input from the transportation planning partners: Lake Clarity and Water Quality - 1.18, 1.19, 1.1.14, 1.1.15, 1.2.9; Socioeconomic - 3.1, 3.4, 3.6, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.13, 3.14, 3.15, Integration Assessment and Adaptive Management - 4.1, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5.

**Describe the anticipated project accomplishments:**

Completion of data sets that will provide the most up-to-date and accurate representation of travel patterns and transportation use in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Development of a travel demand model that can provide analysis and forecasts of current and future travel characteristics and will allow transportation planning and implementing agencies in the Basin the ability to direct efficient, effective and meaningful multi-modal transportation options.

**Describe the “readiness” of this project to move forward (Environmental Documentation, etc.)**

As previously stated, the Origin and Destination Study is underway. Phase 1 will be completed in April 2004. Phase II of the Origin and Destination Survey will be complete by October 2004. Conversion of the exiting travel demand model will commence once funding is identified. Development of the new travel demand model will start after the Origin and Destination Survey effort and conversion of existing travel demand model is complete. The update to the Travel Demand Model is scheduled to be completed by October 2005. Continued funding support of this project is crucial to enable transportation planners and implementers access to the most up-to-date analysis and information.

**Describe the partnership for this project. (Include Documentation).**

Partners in the project include the U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lake Tahoe Basin, Nevada Department of Transportation, California Department of Transportation, Washoe, Placer, Douglas, El Dorado, and Carson City Counties, City of South Lake Tahoe, Strategic Marketing Group, and the North Shore Resort Association. A memorandum of understanding is not developed as of this date.

**For Science and Research Projects, describe how this project will guide future management activities.**

The Origin and Destination Study combined with the update to the Travel Demand Model is the key to guiding future management decisions regarding transportation

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planning and project or program implementation in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Decision makers will be able to understand and interpret current and ongoing travel characteristics of the Lake Tahoe transportation user, and how to guide accurate multi-modal transportation management options in the future as they relate to planning and implementation of projects and programs.

**Project Area Map:**

