

**RENAMING THE SOUTH TAHOE GREENWAY SHARED USE TRAIL TO THE
DENNIS T. MACHIDA MEMORIAL GREENWAY**

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 21-11-03 (Attachment 1) renaming the “South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail” to the “Dennis T. Machida Memorial Greenway.”

Executive Summary: Staff recommends renaming the South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail (Trail) in honor of Dennis T. Machida, who passed away in 2005. Mr. Machida was instrumental in creating the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) and envisioning the Trail. Under Mr. Machida’s leadership as the Conservancy’s first executive officer, the Conservancy acquired thousands of acres of land and secured millions of dollars in funding to support a variety of resource and recreation objectives. He also helped organize the first Lake Tahoe Summit, which gained national prominence for the Lake Tahoe Basin’s (Basin) environmental objectives and led to the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP).

The Conservancy and its partners have completed four major sections of the Trail to connect the south shore community, making Mr. Machida’s vision a reality. The Conservancy is also planning an in-person dedication event in summer 2022 and will also celebrate Mr. Machida’s life and accomplishments at that time by establishing a memorial site near the Trail.

Location: The Trail extends from the Tahoe Sierra Subdivision to the Van Sickle Bi-State Park in South Lake Tahoe, California (Attachment 2).

Fiscal Summary: The Conservancy will incur incidental costs to work with partners to rename the Trail on websites, signs, maps, and documents.

Overview

History

In the early 1960s, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) purchased much of the right of way needed for a by-pass freeway intended to address traffic congestion along U.S. Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe. By the 1970s, changing environmental values precluded new major auto routes in the Basin and public agencies envisioned alternative uses for the right of way. Mr. Machida worked with Caltrans to

transfer the former freeway right of way to the Conservancy in 2000 to protect open space and natural values and to eventually develop a bike trail along the right of way alignment. Under Mr. Machida's leadership, Conservancy staff commenced planning efforts for the Trail in 2002.

The Conservancy and its partners have made significant progress on the Trail since its inception. As depicted in Attachment 2, four major Trail sections are now complete. In the early 2000s, and under Mr. Machida's leadership, the Conservancy Board authorized funding and land transactions to support construction of the first section of Trail near Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC). El Dorado County completed this first section of Trail in 2005 and referred to it as the Community Play Fields Project. The Conservancy completed the next section, known as Phase 1A, in 2015. El Dorado County recently completed two additional sections, known as Phases 1B and 2. The public is now able to walk or ride on continuous trail from Sierra Boulevard to Herbert Avenue, and now cross Trout Creek and Bijou Meadow on bridges and boardwalks that protect natural resources. Significant partnerships made these Trail sections possible. The Conservancy has entered into critical Trail land exchange, maintenance, and implementation agreements with the City of South Lake Tahoe, LTCC, and El Dorado County. LTCC, Caltrans, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), and the Conservancy contributed funding to the Trail.

Detailed Description of Recommended Action

Staff recommends that the Board rename the Trail to the "Dennis T. Machida Memorial Greenway" to honor Mr. Machida's stewardship and community improvement efforts. The Conservancy will rename all completed and approved Trail phases including changing the Trail name on documents, maps, websites, and signs. The Conservancy has coordinated with partners and confirmed their willingness to name future Trail sections similarly.

1. Overall Context and Benefits

Mr. Machida's legacy is the inspiration for the Trail and renaming the Trail in his remembrance will maintain his legacy for generations to come. Mr. Machida was instrumental in creating the Conservancy and was its first executive officer, with a 20-year tenure starting in 1985. He passed away in 2005. He was a guiding light for the Conservancy, and nurtured staff and partners with humility, encouragement, humor, generosity, and a strong work ethic. Mr. Machida was a catalyst for essential environmental and community improvements in the Basin that we continue to enjoy today. Mr. Machida was instrumental in creating the Tallac Commission, which determined how to implement the Lake Tahoe Acquisitions Bond Act and led to the creation of the Conservancy. Under his leadership the Conservancy acquired and managed more than 6,400 acres of land, and secured over \$290 million in public funds for nearly 600 projects throughout the California side of the Basin.

Prior to his tenure at the Conservancy, Mr. Machida also played instrumental leadership roles in other state agencies. He served in the California Department of Finance in 1977 and as Assistant Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy from 1977 to 1982. He was the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs with The Resources Agency (California Natural Resources Agency) from 1982 to 1985, where he was responsible for various activities to implement the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Mr. Machida also made significant contributions to the Tahoe-Baikal Institute, which supported international environmental education and stewardship.

The Conservancy plans to celebrate Mr. Machida's accomplishments by hosting a ceremony at the Trail in summer 2022, and by establishing a memorial site adjacent to the Trail near Trout Creek. The summer 2022 event will formally dedicate the Trail in Mr. Machida's honor, and there will be opportunities for socializing and sharing memories afterwards. The memorial will include information about Mr. Machida, the history of the Trail, and a map of the south shore bike trail network. Staff is working closely with the Machida family to plan this upcoming event and design the memorial site.

The Conservancy, the City, and El Dorado County are working together with other partners to construct future Trail sections. El Dorado County is performing feasibility studies for the Johnson Meadow Connector, and the Conservancy is working with the City to move forward with Phase 1C of the Trail. These segments would provide additional connections between South Lake Tahoe communities while advancing Mr. Machida's vision for the entire Trail.

2. Schedule for the Recommended Action

Over the coming year staff will work with partners to change the Trail name on documents, maps, websites, and signs. As future Trail sections are developed, staff will also work with partners to name those sections in Mr. Machida's honor.

Financing

The Conservancy will incur incidental costs to work with partners to update websites, documents, maps, and signs.

Authority

Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation

Renaming the Trail is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.9 authorizes the Conservancy to take whatever actions are reasonably necessary and incidental to the management of lands and facilities under its ownership or control.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

The Trail renaming does not involve any commitment to any specific activity which has the potential to result in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The Trail renaming is therefore not a “project” within the meaning of CEQA.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Resolution 21-11-03

Attachment 2 – Trail Map

Conservancy Staff Contact

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