



Date: April 22, 2025

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Danielle McHugh, Transportation Program Analyst

Title: **2025 Truckee Dirt Trail Grant Awards**

Jen Callaway, Town Manager

Recommended Action: Town Council to:

1. Award \$159,431.75 in Measure U funding through the 2025 Truckee Dirt Trail Grant Program (TDTGP) to the Truckee Trails Foundation for the construction of the Thelin Trail Project;
2. Authorize the Town Manager to execute the associated funding agreement in a form approved by the Town Attorney; and
3. Create a CIP and budget for the Truckee Dirt Trail Grant Program as outlined in this staff report.

Background: At the January 28, 2025 Town Council meeting, Council adopted Resolution 2025-13, approving the 2025 Truckee Dirt Trail Grant Program Guidelines and earmarking a maximum of \$750,000 in Measure U funds for 2025 grant awards to support the development and construction of dirt trails consistent with the Town's Trails and Bikeways Master Plan (TBMP).

The Call for Projects was posted on February 3, 2025 with applications due by March 14, 2025. The Town received a total of three (3) applications which were evaluated by a Town staff committee using the scoring criteria outlined in the program guidelines, including eligibility, consistency with TBMP goals, project readiness, applicant qualifications, and community benefits. All three project proposals were submitted by Truckee Trails Foundation (TTF) and are summarized below.

- The **Thelin Trail Proposal** is a shovel-ready construction project which will construct a 3,535-foot long, natural surface trail that connects the Ponderosa Palisades neighborhood to Segment 4A of the Truckee River Legacy Trail. The Thelin Trail will be a bi-directional earthen path open to all non-motorized users and e-bikes, designed to be a convenient and safe connection for residents to walk or ride to downtown Truckee on foot or bicycle. This trail's connection to the Truckee River Legacy Trail means that users will be able to walk or ride from Ponderosa Palisades to other locations along the entire stretch of the Legacy Trail. This new trail will provide a safe and convenient way to connect to the Legacy Trail and downtown from the Sierra Meadows and Ponderosa Palisades neighborhood and will be a sustainable alternative to the erosive user-created routes that are currently being used.
- The **Trout Creek Trail Proposal** includes a funding request for both planning and construction of an 8,448 linear-foot trail connecting downtown Truckee with Northwoods Boulevard near the Coyote Moon Golf Course. This trail would roughly parallel the existing Trout Creek paved multi-use path. Though the existing paved trail accomplishes much of the desired connectivity, the proposed dirt trail will provide an alternative surface, thereby reducing the demands and potential conflicts on the paved trail.
- The **Legacy Dirt Trail Feasibility Study Proposal** is a funding request that involves performing a feasibility study to construct a 4.7-mile dirt trail parallel to a portion of the Truckee River Legacy trail between Glenshire and Downtown Truckee. While a paved path does currently exist

along the Truckee River, a parallel dirt trail will provide an option for users that prefer an earthen surface, thereby reducing user conflicts on the paved trail and resulting in safer and more enjoyable trail experiences for all.

While Town staff is supportive of awarding funds for both the Trout Creek Trail and Legacy Dirt Trail Feasibility Study proposals, staff has requested additional details to better define the scope of work, schedule, and budget before a formal recommendation is made to Council.

The Thelin Trail Project, however, is shovel-ready with CEQA already completed by the Town in conjunction with the Legacy Trail Phase 4A effort. The necessary grading permit was acquired from the Town by TTF last year. Staff believe that TTF has the necessary experience to complete the project scope on time and within budget. Staff is recommending that Council award the grant for the Thelin Trail prior to finalizing the details for the other projects so as to not impact TTF's schedule to construct the trail this summer. The total project construction cost is estimated at \$176,327, with an additional \$9,345.75 in maintenance costs for the five years following project completion. TTF is requesting a total grant award of \$159,431.75 in Measure U funding, to which they will contribute \$26,241 in match funding.

Staff recommend that Town Council award \$159,431.75 in Measure U funding to the Truckee Trails Foundation for the construction of the Thelin Trail Project and authorize the Town Manager and Town Attorney to create and execute a funding agreement for the grant award.

This 2025 Truckee Dirt Trail Grant Program is a new program, for which a CIP budget has not been established. As such Staff recommends creating a CIP and adopting the proposed budget as follows:

Proposed Budget for CIP C2617, Truckee Dirt Trail Grant Program

Expenditure	FY24/25	FY25/26	FY26/27	FY27/28	Total
Planning	\$0	\$275,000	\$125,000	\$100,000	\$500,000
Construction	\$100,000	\$225,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$625,000
Total	\$100,000	\$500,000	\$275,000	\$250,000	\$1,125,000
Funding Source					
Measure U	\$100,000	\$500,000	\$275,000	\$250,000	\$1,125,000

Staff propose to return to the Town Council with additional award recommendations once additional details for the other two projects are finalized.

Priority:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhanced Communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Infrastructure Investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Core Service

Fiscal Impact: With the adoption of Resolution 2025-13, a maximum of \$750,000 in Measure U funds was earmarked for the 2025 Truckee Dirt Trail Grant Program grant awards. The recommended grant award of \$159,431.75 for this project leaves a remaining balance of \$590,568.25 for the Trout Creek Trail and Legacy Dirt Trail Proposals. Staff have included an additional \$375,000 in the proposed CIP budget to ensure funding is available should the TDTGP be extended for a second cycle in 2026. Staff time for administration of the grant program is expected to be minimal and will be accounted for within the operating budget.

Public Communication: Previous communication includes this topic as a discussion item at the September 24, 2024 Town Council meeting and a discussion item resulting in adoption of Resolution 2025-13 at the January 28, 2025 Town Council meeting. A page dedicated to the 2025 TDTGP was created and posted on the Town's website following adoption of Resolution 2025-13. The webpage contains information about the grant program, including the Guidelines. The Call for Projects was posted on February 3, 2025 on the Town's website. Information about the program was also shared on the Town's social media accounts on February 4th and February 23rd.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Thelin Trail Proposal