Project Overview

In April of 2014, the Lake Tahoe Unified School District (LTUSD), in partnership with other agencies and community mobility activists, was awarded an On Our Way grant in the amount of $153,625 for development of the South Tahoe Middle School Connectivity Plan (STMS). The project area was selected as **HIGH NEED IN SOUTH LAKE TAHOE** because of the significant concentration of educational and community facilities in and around the Middle School. These include the Boys and Girls Club, South Lake Tahoe Recreation Center, El Dorado County Library, Bijou Park and Bike Park, Lakeview Commons, and the South Lake Tahoe/El Dorado County law enforcement and judicial complex.

The Middle School area was also selected due to the **LACK OF CONNECTIVITY** in the area’s existing trail and pedestrian infrastructure and the clear need for Safe Routes to School improvements connecting to and from the Middle School.

The **KEY GOALS** in preparing the STMS were to:
- Identify a high priority project for implementation through robust public engagement,
- Prepare schematic drawings, and
- Assemble an application for final design and construction funds to the California Active Transportation Plan (ATP) grants program by the spring of 2015.

Project Results

- The final **STMS CONNECTIVITY PLAN** providing a summary of the study efforts; a description of all twelve potential mobility improvement projects identified through public engagement.
- Detailed **OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES** targeting the Middle School, school district, City, businesses, community groups and members, and local agencies and jurisdictions resulting in exceptional public input and agency coordination.
- A description of the high priority project selected for the **ATP GRANT APPLICATION**.
Project Achievements

The PRIORITY SELECTION PROCESS was rigorous and included the results of community and school surveys, meetings, and workshops reaching over 1,000 people. Twelve potential projects were developed (left), each with two to four alternatives, and then were prioritized by the Project Development Team using detailed criteria heavily influenced by public input and feasibility.

The clear priority that emerged was the **ALTAHOE BOULEVARD SAFETY AND COMMUNITY MOBILITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT** (below). Consistent with the goal of the Connectivity Plan, an ATP application was prepared and submitted to State grant reviewers in May of 2015. The City of South Lake Tahoe voted to serve as the lead agency for implementation if the application was successful.

**THE PROJECT WAS APPROVED FOR $2.145 MILLION IN IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING** by the California Transportation Commission as part of a statewide grants package on October 21, 2015. Construction is expected to start in 2017.

The Community Mobility Work Group of the Lake Tahoe Sustainability Collaborative also worked with the LTUSD to secure a $10,000 On Our Way grant to help develop a **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) MASTER PLAN.** The LTUSD SRTS Master Plan was modeled to follow the national SRTS format and the LTUASD Board of Directors adopted the plan, including the **Al Tahoe Boulevard Safety and Mobility Enhancement Project** on November 17, 2015. The City of South Lake Tahoe and County of El Dorado are expected to adopt the SRTS Master Plan in 2016.

The TRPA/TMPO On Our Way Grants have already begun making South Lake Tahoe a more **LIVABLE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BY INCREASING WALKING AND BIKING** through public engagement and programs directed at schools such as walking school busses and bike to school days. The grants will continue to provide benefits into the future. The partnerships created between community groups and agencies will work together to implement projects and programs identified in the plans; and continually build relationships by reassessing and reprioritizing plan components and objectives.