



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 7

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee
and Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: December 7, 2021

Staff Contact: Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator, gberggren@carson.org

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Discussion only regarding the Mary B. Ansari Memorial Bench and Interpretive Sign Project. (*Gregg Berggren*)

Staff Summary: See below.

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 10 minutes

A generous donation from the Nazir and Mary Ansari Foundation recently funded placement of four benches and three interpretive signs at various locations on the historic Virginia and Truckee (“V&T”) Railroad Lakeview Grade. The benches were placed as a memorial to Dr. Mary Ansari (1939-2020), a local historian, author, philanthropist and an avid outdoors person who was passionate about preserving the history of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad for future generations.

This Bench and Interpretive Sign project complements the efforts of the Historic Virginia and Truckee Trail working group whose mission is “To create a route of multi-use paths and bike lanes, which follows, wherever possible, the alignment of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad and connects five counties of Northern Nevada; Washoe, Carson City, Douglas, Lyon and Storey. The Historic Virginia and Truckee Trail will offer recreation and alternative transportation; showcase the beautiful geography and nature of the high desert, rivers, canyons and mountains; and educate residents and visitors about the history of the V&T Railroad, native American populations, mining, ranching and farming.

These are the first interpretive signs to be placed along the Virginia and Truckee Trail alignment and each sign tells a different story related to the specific location:



“Moving Through Time”, is located on the old RR grade above Coombs Canyon with an outstanding view of Carson City. Several historic locations and moments are identified, including the Gumalonga Trail (namesake for the newly named Gumalonga Open Space), ancestral lands of the Washoe People, the arrival of the V&T Railroad, the first air flight in Nevada, and the 1919 Transcontinental Convoy which was led by Lt. Colonel Dwight Eisenhower, who later as President initiated the Interstate Highway System, a segment of which is also visible from this location.



Lyndsey Boyer applies finishing touches to the “Lakeview” sign, located at the trailhead on Hobart road at the Lakeview Estates entrance, along with accompanying bench. This sign describes the former V&T Station that was once located here, the Marlette Flume to Virginia City, historic logging in the Carson Range, and the emergence of cars and trucks.



“Lakeview Tunnel” is located near the intersection of the V&T Trail and the Foothill Trail. It was placed in a location from which a 1937 photo was taken, showing a train approaching the summit at Lakeview and the now collapsed tunnel. The 360-foot-long Lakeview Tunnel served the V&T for 60 years before being abandoned because it was too small for “modern” freight cars.