



A bike trail runs through it

BY CHRIS CARNEL

The Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway is a great vision in the works. This essay shows a completed section through the lens of a Reno photographer.

The Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway is the ultimate commuter road. It's a car-free cyclists' path, the equivalent of a non-motorized Interstate 80 that bisects the Truckee Meadows and for the most part, parallels the Truckee River. Its paved sections run from Verdi to Vista Boulevard in Sparks, with roughly 10 miles spanning in each direction from its current mid-point downtown near the Siena Hotel Spa & Casino. The blacktop is interrupted here and there, but regardless, it's very cohesive: a cool and exclusive place for bikers, joggers, dogs and inliners to venture, exercise and meander. At some points, it cuts through dense vegetation, at others, desert vistas and sometimes, interestingly, it threads beneath the cement bridges you've driven your car over a thousand times. Because of its variety of land- and cityscapes, this section is sort of like taking a road trip—but it's short, free and on your bicycle.

The official Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway is a great vision in the works. It's part of a path that stretches from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake, and it will eventually comprise more than 100 miles in length, spanning multiple bridges, five counties, two states and about 2,000 feet in elevation change. For more info, visit www.tpikeway.org.

There are some things that are better left unsaid.

This is near the sewage-treatment facility. Better visuals here than smells. Watch that shoulder.