

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: January 25-26, 2023

From: MITCH WEISS, Executive Director

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Subject: California Transportation Commission Equity Initiatives Update

## **Summary:**

The Commission Equity Initiatives Update serves to highlight the status of ongoing efforts, as well as create a forum for interagency Equity Advisory Committee members to provide updates to the California Transportation Commission (Commission). Equity Advisory Committee member Peggy Martinez will speak to the Commission about accessibility and effective tools and meeting platforms that best support participation for people with visual impairments who utilize screen readers and other tools during virtual and in-person meetings. In addition to serving as a Committee member, Peggy Martinez owns a small business focused on improving accessibility in technology, wayfinding, transit, recreation, travel and entertainment for people with sight loss.

## **Background:**

Since adopting its Racial Equity Statement in 2021, the Commission has remained engaged in ongoing internal and interagency equity related efforts. In April 2022, the Commission's Equity Advisory Roundtable (Roundtable) concluded, paving the way for the adoption and implementation of a standing interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). The Commission adopted the Committee proposal in June 2022, and approved recommendations for members in October 2022. On December 15, 2022, the Commission, Caltrans and CalSTA held an informal, virtual Meet and Greet event for Committee members. On March 21, 2023, the first combined hybrid meeting of the Committee with Commissioners, Caltrans and CalSTA will be held in Los Angeles, California.

The Meet and Greet event was held to create a space for Committee members to gather, meet one another, and hear about the tentative schedule for the upcoming year. A majority of Committee members were able to join. The Meet and Greet revealed an important accessibility challenge within the virtual platform currently in use, and Commission staff are working to address and rectify the issue.