

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 5-6, 2024

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 1.13 Information

Prepared By: C. Sequoia Erasmus
Associate Deputy Director

Published Date: November 22, 2024

Subject: Equity Initiatives Updates and Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Chair's Report

Summary:

Staff will provide a recap of the October 2024 Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) meeting, ad hoc subcommittee convenings, and ongoing equity-related work.

A detailed summary from the October 24, 2024 in-person Equity Visioning Workshop can be found in Attachment A. Minutes from the October 24, 2024 Committee meeting can be found in Attachment B.

Committee Chair William Walker will offer verbal remarks in addition to the Chair's written report, which is included in Attachment C, unedited.

Background:

The Committee is a priority for the California Transportation Commission (Commission), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). The Committee elevates diverse and historically marginalized voices to advise the three agencies on how to achieve meaningful outcomes in transportation equity, environmental justice, and equitable economic opportunities, especially as related to transportation planning and programming.

At the April 5, 2024, meeting of the Committee, the Committee approved the formation of three ad hoc subcommittees. They are, (1) Safety and *Climate*, (2) Housing, Infrastructure, and Broadband, and (3) Walkability, Disability, and Complete Streets.

October 24, 2024 Committee Meeting

On October 24, 2024 the Committee held an in-person equity visioning workshop followed by a meeting. A detailed summary of the Equity Visioning Workshop can be found in Attachment A and a copy of the draft meeting minutes is attached. Committee members continue to provide interagency staff with input about future meeting topics. Discussion items are listed and updated in Committee meeting minutes and added to future agendas for discussion or action.

Subcommittee Meetings

Subcommittees currently meet monthly. The following summarizes current efforts.

- **Walkability, Disability, and Complete Streets**
 - Chair: Michelle Rousey
 - Next meeting: December 16
 - Summary: The subcommittee is working to make recommendations on the Senate Bill 1121 Needs Assessment, with a focus on the accessibility and complete streets chapters.
- **Safety and Climate**
 - Chair: Martha Armas-Kelly
 - Next meeting: December 16
 - Summary: The subcommittee has agreed to take the lead on developing the Committee's vision, mission, and policy principles for transportation equity.
- **Housing, Infrastructure, and Broadband**
 - Chair: Cheryl Viegas-Walker
 - Next meeting: December 17
 - Summary: The subcommittee is interested in transit-oriented development and vehicle miles travelled mitigation strategies and how they intersect with land use and equity concerns for replacing the gas tax. The subcommittee has also discussed how to address legacy displacement and how to prevent future displacement. The subcommittee would also like to focus on the Middle Mile and Last Mile Broadband Initiatives, and how to monitor their development and implementation.

Committee Workplan Update

The Commission, Caltrans, and CalSTA have developed an interagency workplan that outlines the programs, policies, or processes that each agency requests input from the Committee. A summary of actions the Committee has completed and future opportunities for involvement include:

- Provided recommendations for updates to CalSTA's Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure.
 - Approved by the Committee on August 22, 2024
- Advised on the development of use cases for the Caltrans Equity Index.
- Provided guidance to support the development of Caltrans community engagement guidelines, tools, and templates.
- Engaged with Caltrans to understand the current Caltrans System Investment Strategy and participate in future updates.
- Participated in the review and evaluation process for the Commission's Active Transportation Program and Senate Bill 1 Programs, and in the Commission's update to its State Highway Operation and Protection Program Guidelines.
 - Committee members attended and provided feedback on updates to the Active Transportation Program Guidelines, Senate Bill 1 Programs, and the State Highway Operation and Protection Program Guidelines.
 - Committee members will be invited to review forthcoming Senate Bill 1 Programs funding applications.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Detailed Summary of the October 24, 2024 Equity Visioning Session In-Person Workshop
- Attachment B: October 24, 2024 Equity Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes
- Attachment C: Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Chair's Report

ATTACHMENT A:*Summary of the October 24, 2024 Equity Visioning Session Workshop*

On the morning of October 24, 2024, the Committee held a workshop to discuss and brainstorm ideas for an equity vision, mission statement, and foundational principles to apply to Committee work. Five committee members attended. Members provided input on strategies to develop the vision, mission statement, and foundational principles.

At the full meeting of the Committee members voted to develop the equity vision in a Subcommittee. Based on the current workload of each subcommittee, the Climate and Safety Subcommittee, chaired by Martha Armas Kelly, will continue to develop the vision.

At the workshop, members discussed the following questions :

1. Do you have a vision statement?
2. Do you have a mission statement?
3. Once there is a draft mission and vision statement, we'd like to get community input. What organizations and groups are you willing to share the final vision and mission with?

Workshop discussions then focused on who and what the vision should represent. Members expressed a need for the vision to reflect alignment with the communities and voices they want the statement to represent. To do this, members stated that input from communities with diverse perspectives, including low-income seniors, people with disabilities, non-drivers, environmental justice leaders, youth, and people from diverse geographic regions including rural communities was vital to success.

Members also identified a desire to expand the vision statement to look beyond focusing on individual corridors and include the importance of mitigating the negative effects of climate change, poor air pollution, or limited access to essential services such as broadband. Members added that an equitable vision for transportation acknowledges that high achieving transportation systems enable people to realize their potential by helping people get to where they need to go, especially in disabled communities where high levels of unemployment can be directly tied to a lack of access to adequate transportation.

Additionally, members attending the workshop highlighted that the statement should apply to all policies within agencies and should represent interconnectedness between equity issues and the roles of Caltrans, the Commission, and CalSTA. Members also identified other groups to collaborate with, such as the Transit Transformation Task Force, and the importance of attending community level events, such as those hosted by the California Highway Patrol.

Members sought to examine the importance of the language used in the statement, with encouragement to move away from terms like Disadvantaged Communities to more uplifting language, such as Opportunity Communities.

Members highlighted that implementing equity visions and statements is critical, noting that members should avoid wordsmithing language not associated with implementation. Some examples of useful models mentioned included the community engagement sections of the Senate Bill 1 Program applications and the Sierra Health Foundation publication "Engaging Youth: A How-To Guide for Creating Opportunities for Young People to Participate, Lead and Succeed" which identifies pillars of participation and the results of different levels of participation.

The visioning statement discussion ended with members identifying communities they would commit to discussing the language of the statement with. Ideas included:

- The California Council for the Blind
- The National Federation of the Blind – California
- California Independent Living Councils
- The Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities, Humboldt
- The Caltrans District 1 and District 10 Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- High Schools, Colleges and Student Organizations
- Black Humboldt
- The Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee
- Local School Boards
- CalWalks
- Faith Based Organizations
- Multi-lingual communities
- Rural Counties Task Force
- Tribal Chairmen's Association of Northern California
- Hold a Town Hall

Members concluded the workshop with a brief discussion of new membership and onboarding strategies. They agreed that ideal candidates are advocates and users of transit and transportation and have experience in areas such as transportation or environmental justice. Members highlighted the importance of initial onboarding processes that can help support with capacity building. Members also identified the importance of geographic diversity on the committee, with Caltrans Districts, rural areas, and areas with little representation as potential points of focus. Demographics diversity such as the inclusion younger adults (under 30) and seniors and people with disability was discussed. Other members suggested opening opportunities for communities to nominate individuals, or creating a nomination committee of committee members.

ATTACHMENT B:**Minutes****INTERAGENCY EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

for the

**California Transportation Commission, California Department of Transportation,
and California State Transportation Agency****October 24, 2024****Solano Transportation Authority****423 Main Street****Suisun City, CA 94585****October 24, 2024****1:00 pm****Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Meeting***Option to join via Zoom or Teleconference per [SB 544](#)

For a more thorough review of this meeting, please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCASI3qyTEuhZffC13RbG4xQ>

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
1	Roll Call	Justin Hall	I
Committee Member		Attendance	
Vice Chair Martha Armas-Kelly		Present	
Alexandria Contreras		Present	
Ana Gonzalez		Present	
Herb Hastings		Absent	
Gloria Huerta		Present	
Peggy Martinez		Present	
Amber Novey		Absent	
Andres Ramirez		Present	
Michelle Rousey		Present	
Connie Stewart		Present	
Randy Torres-Van Vleck		Present	
Cheryl Viegas-Walker		Present	
Kristine Williams		Absent	
Chair William Walker		Present	

Total – Present: 11 Absent: 3

**“A” denotes an “Action” item; “I” denotes an “Information” item.

For a glossary of frequently used terms and acronyms please visit the California Transportation Commission website at: https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/about_ctc/acronyms-11-04-21-a11y.pdf

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
2	Land Acknowledgement	Martha Armas-Kelly	I

Equity Advisory Committee Vice-Chair Martha Armas-Kelly presented this information item.

No public comment.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
3	Welcoming Remarks and Chair's Report	William Walker	I

Equity Advisory Committee Chair William Walker presented this informational item.

No public comment.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
4	Executive Remarks and Interagency Updates	William Walker Carolyn Abrams	I

Equity Advisory Committee Chair William Walker presented this informational item.

Senior Advisor on Race and Equity in the Caltrans Director's Office of Equity and Tribal Affairs Carolyn Abrams provided an update on the 2025 EAC Member application process.

No public comment.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
5	Welcome to the Region	Dwayne Hankerson Johnny Parker	I

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Policy Advisory Council Members Dwayne Hankerson and Johnny Parker presented this informational item.

No public comment.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
6	Approval of August 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes	Justin Hall	A

Recommendation: Approval

Action Taken: Approved

Motion: Armas-Kelly **Second:** Rousey **Recused:** None **Absent:** Contreras, Gonzalez, Hastings, Novey, Torres-Van Vleck, Williams.

Vote result: 8-0

Ayes: Armas-Kelly, Huerta, Martinez, Ramirez, Rousey, Stewart, Viegas Walker, Walker

Nays:

Abstained:

No public comment.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
7	Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda	William Walker	I

Equity Advisory Committee Chair William Walker presented this informational item.

No public comment.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
8	CalSTA Status Update: Committee Recommendations for the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure	Darwin Moosavi	I

CalSTA Deputy Secretary of Environmental Policy and Housing Coordination Darwin Moosavi presented this informational item.

No public comment.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
9	Middle Mile and Last Mile Broadband Initiatives Informational Presentation and Discussion	Connie Stewart; Robert Payne, California Department of Technology; Maria Ellis, California Public Utilities Commission	I

Equity Advisory Committee Member Connie Stewart presented this informational item.

Department of Technology Middle Mile Program Manager Robert Payne and California Public Utilities Commission Broadband Regional Initiatives Branch Supervisor Karen Eckersley provided an informational presentation on the broadband middle mile and last mile initiatives.

No public comment.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
10	California High-Speed Rail Informational Presentation	Alice Rodriguez California High-Speed Rail Authority	I

California High-Speed Rail Authority Deputy Director of External Affairs Alice Rodriguez presented this informational item.

No public comment.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
11	Workshop Update: Vision, Mission, and Foundational Principles for Transportation Equity	Nailah Pope-Harden	A

Caltrans Deputy Director of Equity and Tribal Affairs Nailah Pope-Harden presented this action item. The development of a vision, mission, and foundational principles for transportation equity was directed to be coordinated through an existing ad hoc subcommittee. Given the current workload of subcommittees, the item will continue to be developed within the Safety and Climate Subcommittee.

No action was taken.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
12	Subcommittee Updates	William Walker Subcommittee Chairs	A

Equity Advisory Committee Chair William Walker presented this informational item.

Equity Advisory Subcommittee Chairs provided updates on recent subcommittee meetings.

Recommendation: For the Walkability, Disability, and Complete Streets Subcommittee to write a letter of recommendations for the SB1121 Needs Assessment that will be brought to the full Equity Advisory Committee for approval.

Action Taken: Approved

Motion: Rousey **Second:** Armas-Kelly **Recused:** None **Absent:** Contreras, Hastings, Martinez, Novey, Williams

Vote result: 9-0

Ayes: Armas-Kelly, Gonzalez, Huerta, Ramirez, Rousey, Stewart, Torres-Van Vleck, Viegas-Walker, Walker

Nays:

Abstained:

No public comment.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
13	Member Reports and Future Meeting Topics	William Walker	I

Equity Advisory Committee Chair William Walker presented this informational item.

No public comment.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
14	2025 EAC Meeting Calendar	Justin Hall	I

California Transportation Commission Assistant Commission Clerk Justin Hall presented this informational item.

No public comment.

Tab	Agenda Item	Facilitator	Type*
15	Closing and Next Steps	Carolyn Abrams	I

Senior Advisor on Race and Equity in the Caltrans Director's Office of Equity and Tribal Affairs Carolyn Abrams presented this informational item.

No public comment.

ADJOURN

5:35PM

Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)
Caltrans | CalSTA | CA Transportation Commission

To: Hon. Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)
Hon. Carl Gaurdino, Chair, California Transportation Commission (CTC)
Hon. Asm. Lori Wilson, Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
Hon. Sen. Dave Cortese, Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
Mr. Mark Tollefson, Undersecretary, California State Transportation Agency
Mr. Tony Tavares, Director, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
Ms. Nailah Pope Harden, Deputy Director, Caltrans
Ms. Tanisha Taylor, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission
Ms. Sequoia Erasmus, Associate Deputy Director, California Transportation Commission

Fr: William Walker, Chair, Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)
wwalker.cal@gmail.com

Re: Final Thoughts regarding Final EAC Chair's Report to December 4-5, 2024 Joint Executive Meeting of the CA Transportation Commission & Interagency Equity Advisory Committee

Date: November 20, 2024

Greetings, Honorable Leadership! Attached you will find my final remarks to the EAC, CTC and Interagency Leadership. In it, I express my gratitude for serving as the inaugural Chair, in a capacity where, along with other advocates, experts and transit users, we provided advice to shape the policies and funding guidelines for the transportation infrastructure and services we rely upon day in and day out today and for years to come. Visiting project sites, attending public hearings and briefings, listening to and providing public comment, and being able to help debut or open projects or programs has been both rewarding and eye opening. Getting to know the planners, engineers, managers and policymakers around the state has been helpful to help us inform our perspectives on how we can continue to move forward the most equitable projects that put the communities most negatively impacted by past infrastructure wrongs first, in an effort to make those wrongs right. Thank you for this opportunity.

I have attached my final Chair's report to this first official and likely final communication outside of a regular meeting from me, as Chair, to you all. I wanted to provide five suggestions that I believe will take some weight off EAC Interagency Staff and help future EAC members coordinate among themselves the very important work that is ahead of them, which may be impacted by the change in political leadership this coming January 2025:

1. More EAC member discussion and deliberation, using existing meeting time
2. More community member and stakeholder engagement
3. Expanding EAC leadership opportunities
4. Refocusing committees from topics to function: internal, external and governance/procedures

Memo to CA Transportation Commission and Interagency Leadership
November 20, 2024

5. Expand opportunities for EAC member personal growth and development
1. ***Dedicate more time during EAC meetings for EAC members to deliberate among themselves*** their vision for equitable transportation
2. ***Develop a community-based organization and interested member of the public registry*** available from all 3 interagency websites (CalSTA, Caltrans, CTC) where stakeholders & individuals are directed to register for information about EAC events
3. ***Develop an expanded leadership*** of the EAC that expands the officers from two to five and includes the following officer positions:
 - a. Chair of EAC
 - i. This officer can support the external engagement of the EAC and is the EAC spokesperson
 - b. Vice Chair of EAC and Administration
 - i. This Vice Chair can support the internal engagement of the EAC and fills in for the Chair when the Chair is unavailable
 - c. Vice Chair of Internal Affairs
 - d. Vice Chair of External Affairs
 - e. Vice Chair of Governance, Policies and Procedures
4. ***Develop a committee structure that considers the capacity of existing staff structure***; three committees staffed by each agency, for example
 - a. An ***internal affairs committee*** that
 - i. recommends items from the EAC to the EAC Chair and Vice Chair to be placed on future EAC Committee and Subcommittee agendas each month in consultation with the monthly leadership check-in meetings
 - ii. liaises between EAC members and Interagency Staff
 - iii. helps EAC members develop resolutions or Committee actions to communicate their unified positions regarding major policies, projects or budgetary decisions that advance equity for groups identified in the EAC Charter
 - iv. surveys EAC members at the beginning of each term to determine which member serves as a subject matter expert for a particular Interagency policy or fund programming subject matter
 - v. reviews the Committee structure from the previous EAC and proposes a new structure for the subsequent EAC (to be approved by the subsequent EAC)
 - b. An ***external affairs committee*** that is responsible for
 - i. communicating Committee actions and resolutions to Federal, State and Local agencies, community stakeholders, and members of the public
 - ii. provides a space for community members to engage in EAC deliberations to ensure EAC positions are reflective of the community voice it represents
 - iii. Ensures that every public hearing held by CalSTA, Caltrans, the CTC, the Senate Transportation Committee, and the Assembly

- Transportation Committee, and any other identified meetings has representation from the EAC or a designee of the EAC
- iv. Monitors major developments at the federal, state and local level
 - v. Ensures that each official stakeholder group of the Commission has a liaison at the EAC, these groups include but are not limited to:
 - 1. Regional Agencies (Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and Metropolitan Planning Organizations)
 - 2. Rural Counties Task Force
 - 3. Self-Help Counties
 - 4. Transit Operators
 - 5. Native American Advisory Committee
 - 6. Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, other Federal Partners
 - 7. The 12 Caltrans District Offices, Interagency Department Leads, Organized Labor and other Stakeholder Groups
 - 8. Other State Partners (CARB, CalEPA, CDT, CPUC, HCD, CNRA, OPR/SGC/LCI, and others)
- c. A **policies, procedures, governance and nominations committee** that
- i. develops an internal communication structure for the Committee that adheres to state laws regarding communications between members including the Bagley-Keene Act;
 - ii. solicits input from the EAC, community stakeholders and members of the public, regarding nominations to vacant EAC member positions
 - iii. provides a list of names from communities with the least representation on the EAC to Interagency Leadership to include in future EAC member position outreach
 - iv. ensures each EAC member selects an objective or goal for the year
 - v. proposes ideas for EAC bonding, EAC member professional development opportunities, and pairs an EAC member with a staff mentor from one of the three agencies
 - vi. recruits EAC members to attend Commission meetings, field visits and to provide the monthly EAC written and verbal remarks to the Commission and Interagency Leadership
 - vii. identifies opportunities for EAC members to bond outside meetings
5. Ensure that ***every opportunity for EAC member engagement is also an opportunity for their own professional growth and development***
- a. Every EAC member is unique and comes from a different background and set of circumstances, with differing levels of experience in policy advising roles

Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)
Caltrans | CalSTA | CA Transportation Commission

- b. Treat each meeting as an opportunity for each member to point to one objective or goal they met each meeting

I thank you again for the opportunity to lead such an inspiring, intelligent, inclusive, informative and impactful group of individuals. It was truly an honor and a pleasure. Thank you! - William

ATTACHMENT: DECEMBER 4-5 EAC CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE COMMISSION & INTERAGENCY LEADERSHIP

EAC Chair's Report to Joint Executive Meeting of the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee and California Transportation Commission

Riverside County Administrative Center Building
Board of Supervisors Chambers
4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, CA

December 5, 2024

In my final report to the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee, the California Transportation Commission, leadership staff at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), I decided to begin with thoughts from our first Executive Meeting of the Commission and EAC, in March of 2023 at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan (Metro) Transportation Authority Board Room at the Los Angeles Union Station Gateway Building.

1. Requests from Interagency Equity Advisory Committee members to staff for the year ahead ...

Without naming names, I want to share a few requests from very green Interagency Equity Advisory Committee members. You can play a game later with this report by assigning the name of the EAC member you think might have said the following ...

- a. Can staff provide background on all three agencies – Caltrans, CalSTA, the Commission?
- b. How do the agencies interplay? How do they work together. What are the roles and responsibilities of each and where does each have authority or decision-making power?
- c. What is controlled at the three agencies at the state level versus what is controlled at the local level?
- d. How does the regional planning process come together?
 - a. Regional Transportation Plans
 - b. Sustainable Communities Strategies
 - c. The planning process that yields an RTP or SCS
 - d. Why have certain projects been “on the books” for many years?
- e. How can we make sure the transportation system is equitable in sense of access:
 - a. Seniors
 - b. People with children
 - c. People with special needs

- d. People with disabilities
- e. Other special populations
- f. What are agencies doing around making their systems accessible
- g. Calendaring: where is a “mapping out” of:
 - a. What agencies are working on
 - b. What projects are prioritized over the years
- h. What guidelines projects are due and how the EAC can engage
 - a. Having the advance conversations
 - b. Ensuring EAC is not invited after the plans are finalized (or baked)
 - c. Engaging the EAC fully
- i. What are the project lists and how can the EAC engage
- j. Is there a collection of all the transportation plans at the state and local level similar to the clearinghouse created for CEQA documents? Can this be created in conjunction with a data mapping tool?
- k. What are the criteria utilized to determine which projects are funded, when agencies want to elevate projects.
- l. How can we ensure that youth are at the table?
- m. Can the equity plans from SCAG, SANDAG and other MPOs or LTCs/RTPAs be shared?
- n. What tangible power does this committee have? What tangible influence?
- o. How much influence and power does this committee have over all three agencies: Caltrans, CalSTA, the Commission?
 - a. Budgetary oversight and adjustments?
 - b. Freeway construction decisions
 - c. Multimodal pathways
 - d. Opening restrooms at transit facilities
 - e. Emergency stations

2. Thoughts for the Year Ahead for the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee ...

This is what almost everyone shared about what they wanted to see for the future of the Equity Advisory Committee:

EAC Members

1. Alex Contreras, *Happy City Coalition, Southeast Los Angeles County, unceded Tongva and Gabrielino Territory*

- ﷥ Champion people first land use policies
- ﷥ Prevent destruction of homes targeted for removal by freeway expansion
- ﷥ Bridge the gap between housing and transportation policies

2. Ana Gonzalez, *Environmental Justice activist, Ctr for Comm. Action and Env. Justice (CCA EJ), Jurupa Valley, Riverside and San Bernardino counties-unceded Tongva Territory*

- ﻯ Find solutions to improve public transportation access, reduce 700,000 daily volume of freight trucks that emit pollutants inhaled by community members

3. Amber Novey, *LiUNA Laborers' Int'l Union of N. Amer., Labor Activist, Sacramento and Inland Empire, unceded Tongva and Gabrielino Territory*

- ﻯ Advocate for fair share of federal funds for equitable transportation projects and careers.

4. Axel Santana, *Policy Link, Oakland-San Francisco Bay Area and Santa Ana-Orange County unceded Ohlone and Tongva Gabrielino territories.*

- ﻯ Repair past harms, center equity, prioritize community voices
- ﻯ Leverage moment for equitable implementation of future federal funding
- ﻯ Ensure infrastructure and transportation are used in the most equitable way
- ﻯ Strengthen and prioritize public transportation; get cars off roads as much as we can

5. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, *City Council Member Emerita of El Centro, Imperial County, unceded Kumeyaay Territory*

- ﻯ Huge fan of transportation
- ﻯ Make sure everyone has equitable access to transportation, including all populations, whether special needs, students, or wherever one fits on that spectrum.

6. Connie Stewart, *Advocate for Rural Communities and Native First Nations Communities, Arcata, Humboldt County, unceded Yurok and Wiyot territories*

- ﻯ Plan with equity in mind, but also, implement with equity in mind
- ﻯ Get broadband using transportation infrastructure to communities that need it most, including underserved communities, First Nations Indigenous Peoples

7. Herb Hastings, *Disability Rights and Transportation Advocate, Regional Center of the East Bay, Dublin, San Francisco Bay Area and unceded Ohlone territory*

- ﻯ Serves on a number of disability advisory committees for Bay Area transit agencies.

8. Kristine Williams, *Enterprise Community Partners, transportation and housing advocate, unceded Miwok and Yokuts Territory, Stockton*

- ﻯ Hopes for housing and transportation integration when planning and delivering transportation investments.
- ﻯ Be cognizant of the broader land impacts those investments have, and keeping a climate resiliency lens.
- ﻯ Acknowledge past harms; Stockton is bounded by Highways 5 and 99 and bisected by Highway 4 that divided the formerly largest Filipino American community in California and still separates South Stockton from the rest of Stockton

9. Martha Armas Kelly, *Environmental Justice advocate, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton, San Joaquin and Merced Counties, Central Valley, unceded Miwok and Yokuts land*

- ﷥ Develop solutions that will impact people for a better systemic change
- ﷥ Be the heart, the voice of our ancestors
- ﷥ Plan with youth at the table

10. Michael DeSpain, *Chief Operation Officer, Buena Vista Rancheria of Miwok Indians, Sacramento and Amador counties*

- ﷥ Assist with transportation issues on and off reservations

11. Nailah Pope Harden, *Climate Justice advocate, statewide organizer, Sacramento Region, unceded Nisenan, Maidu, Valley and Plains Miwok, and Patwin territories*

- ﷥ Create holistic policy to help Californians thrive
 - ﷥ Equity work is justice work; transportation justice done right is liberation work
 - ﷥ Get it right. Get it done. Do not draw it out.
 - ﷥ Two years from now we talk about what color bike lanes should be not arguing about access to jobs and housing
 - ﷥ Deeply believe in coalition work; believe in the power of what we can do here.
- Nailah Pope Harden left the EAC in February 2023 to join Caltrans in Spring 2023 as Deputy Director of Equity and Tribal Affairs.*

12. Peggy Martinez, *Disability Inclusion Advocate, Arcata, Humboldt County, unceded Yurok and Wiyot territories*

- ﷥ An equitable transportation system will provide a way for people to be employed, access schools efficiently, recreate, or whatever one wishes to get to
- ﷥ Transportation, walkability, pedestrian and bicycling projects should work for as many people from as many different backgrounds and abilities as possible
- ﷥ Be the heart, the voice of our ancestors
- ﷥ Plan with youth at the table

13. Randy Torres Van Vleck, *Community Activist, City Heights Community Development Corporation, San Diego County and United States Mexico Transborder Region, unceded Kumeyaay territory*

- ﷥ Increase transborder mobility, affordable housing, access to opportunity, transportation justice, meaningful community engagement and participation
- ﷥ Reduce economic barriers to transit, increase access to free transit for youth
- ﷥ Recognize the wrongs of our past, ensure we are not replicating them, correct the wrongs moving forward

14. Stella Ursua, *Clean Energy Advocate, Sr. Manager, Great Alternatives, Long Beach and Los Angeles County, and unceded Tongva and Gabrielino territories*

- ﷥ Connect underserved communities to solar energy systems, lower energy bills, and develop the workforce within those communities negatively impacted by infrastructure

- ﻯ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing clean energy and equitable transit modes.

15. William Walker, *graduate student researcher and transit activist, San Francisco Bay Area, Central Coast and Southern California, unceded Ohlone, Obispeno, Tongva, Gabrielino territories*

- ﻯ Invest in transit equitably so everyone can use the system equally.
- ﻯ Make system equitable for all
- ﻯ Make a system so frequent so a schedule is not needed to ride it easily

Commissioners

16. Lee Ann Eager, Chair, California Transportation Commission

Representing Fresno County, the Central Valley and Economic Development interests

- ﻯ The role of EAC members is to tell the Commission, CalSTA and Caltrans:
 - What we have been doing well
 - What we should be doing differently
 - What direction we should be going
- ﻯ The role of the Commission is:
 - To listen
 - Take recommendations to heart
 - Work together to make a better transportation for all of us

17. Adonia Lugo, Commissioner, California Transportation Commission

Representing Los Angeles, Transportation Equity and Justice, Active Transportation communities

- ﻯ Excited to learn from EAC members what the Commission should invest in
- ﻯ Understand what the community capacity might be to collaborate with the 3 agencies considering how starved and underinvested the communities have been for 500 years.
- ﻯ What are the names for the roles of community experts and how can their community lived experience be turned into career level work in planning that is compensated?
- ﻯ What are the more recent impacts of a logistics economy where workers, transit riders and delivery drivers alike are without places to rest or to use a restroom?

18. Clarissa Falcon, Commissioner, California Transportation Commission

Representing San Diego County, Economic Development expertise

- ﻯ Interested and excited to incorporate the work of the EAC into what the Commission does in terms of future transportation investments and to incorporate EAC member feedback on transportation funding guidelines

19. Hilary Norton, Commissioner, California Transportation Commission

Representing City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, Active Transportation and Walkability/Accessibility

- ﻯ Be very mindful about how our transportation system can provide access and opportunity, but also do harm.

- ﻯ Make our transportation system more accessible, friendly, with amenities such as restrooms, and for the ability to travel on transit with the same dignity on transit and sustainable modes (bike, ped, micromobility) as car travelers.

20. Joe Lyou, Commissioner, California Transportation Commission

Representing Los Angeles County, Environmental Justice community

- ﻯ Prevent future problems and address past grievances
- ﻯ Seek EAC guidance on policy decisions, many of which will not be easy.
- ﻯ Hold the Commission and agencies accountable to implement equity fully and completely

21. Michele Martinez, Commissioner, California Transportation Commission

Representing Long Beach, Orange County cities, transportation justice advocacy

- ﻯ EAC member insight is needed for our Commission, in this new chapter, to act clearly and move forward in a wise way, collectively and collaboratively.
- ﻯ Hold Commissioners accountable and provide a spirit of collaboration and vision that instills love.
- ﻯ Human power and people will drive our policies with good people

22. Darnell Grisby, Commissioner, California Transportation Commission

Representing the San Francisco Bay Area, former Inland Empire resident, Transportation Justice communities

- ﻯ Keep Commission and agencies real and tied to realities
- ﻯ Understand that transportation systems make or break communities.
- ﻯ Make system work for more people so the next generation sees that today's investments led to their own liberation.

Interagency Leadership

23. Mark Tollefson, Undersecretary, CalSTA

- ﻯ This is a very significant day. We have never done anything like this, so it is a very big deal
- ﻯ Each EAC member is an advocate for people who have been overlooked or disregarded; each member is critical to our mission
- ﻯ The EAC should hold each of the 3 agencies accountable. Push us. Guide us.

24. Mike Keever, Chief Deputy Director, Caltrans

- ﻯ Focus on all people, particularly the people we often do not hear.
- ﻯ The more we stop and listen, the more our eyes continue to be open and see opportunities to make the best positive difference we can for the people of California we serve.

25. Mitch Weiss, former Executive Director, California Transportation Commission

- ﻯ Provide transportation for people, particularly the underserved
- ﻯ Plan and fund projects that articulate the vision of the People of California
- ﻯ Come further than the three years it took to get the EAC established.

26. Tanisha Taylor, current Executive Director, California Transportation Commission

- ي Uses the transportation system with the lens of accessibility and disability in mind.
- ي Ensures Commission speaks equally for voices in the room and not in the room.

27. Tony Tavares, Director, Caltrans

- ي Transportation is a basic need and a right for everyone
- ي Caltrans wants to deliver benefits, reduce harms and reconnect communities and neighborhoods that have been separated by some of the transportation system
- ي We need to connect our hearts and minds when we deliver transportation solutions

I was unable to capture everyone in the room, because everyone in the room did not speak. One thing that I was taught as a child was that closed mouths did not get fed. I encourage Commission and Agency staff who did not speak up at that moment to consider doing so in the future. This movement can only be as strong as its enlistees. By taking that space, we can all share in the struggle, be present with each other, and become stronger.

3. Final thoughts from William Walker, Inaugural Chair of the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee ...

I will be very brief ... for William Walker brief standards of course! The report is a bit late, and I apologize to staff. I first want to thank the CTC Equity Advisory Roundtable members that were a part of this first EAC: Randy Torres-Van Vleck, Connie Stewart and Nailah Pope Harden. I really wish the structure of the Committee allowed for us to lean in with you all a bit more. Your guidance would have been sage in the agenda development meetings. If you ever leave the EAC ecosystem, please work with folks to ensure what you all put into this effort continues to ring true long after we are gone. If there is a Charter amendment or EAC member handbook, I hope that you three are all over it with input from your peers from that era. Looking forward to whatever the next phase for this cocoon might be before it becomes a beautiful equity butterfly.

I had no idea what might be in store for me when signing up to be Chair of the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee. I know that I am never everyone's favorite. There is something about walking the earth in size 15 shoes, shoulder length dreadlocks, dark skin, and, to many, an off-putting voice that just makes me not likeable. I get fired from jobs, kicked out of schools, and told I am not wanted, or needed, since 6 years old. Because doors have constantly closed on me, often shortly after being opened, I understand the fight for equity. I am born and raised Californian where only 5 percent of Californians look like me, but when I've done community service in my local jails and prisons, 28 percent of those under lockdown look like me. More than half of

inmates I received phone calls from at my radio station jobs asking for a dedication or at CHALK Youthline or the ACLU help line I answered once upon a time are nonwhite people of color. I have always been different. Much of my work as Chair of this Committee I found that rang true as well. I would apologize for it, but I would then be resigning myself to the same institutional racism that got us where we are in the first place. Instead of apologizing, I leaned into it, hoping I could liberate myself and my people, like many of my peers said at that March 2023 meeting (see section 2 above).

Instead of shying away from it, I leaned in. When people told me that I didn't need to attend Commission meetings, I attended more. When people told me I managed meetings poorly, I pushed to gain more control of agenda development to reduce the number of items on our EAC agenda so we could manage our time better. When I was told I was too negative, I took that narrative head on as well. I steered away from pointing out the problems with the system in which we are being asked to serve. A system where we are chosen by the same people we are asked to advise. It makes it very difficult to speak up for justice when the people that hold that power are the same people that convene your meeting to advise them. It sometimes makes for unsafe situations. I hope that staff considers this when developing next year's program for the EAC.

I want to thank every member of the Equity Advisory Committee for all you contributed these past few months for some, few years for a few others, and two years for the vast majority of us.

Thank you to you all:

Martha Armas-Kelly

Alex Contreras

Ana Gonzalez

Herb Hastings

Gloria Huerta

Peggy Martinez

Amber Novey

Andres Ramirez

Michelle Rousey

Connie Stewart

Randy Torres-Van Vleck

Cheryl Viegas-Walker (aka, Cousin Walker!)

Kristine Williams

And past members: Axel Santana, Michael DeSpain, and Stella Ursua

I am truly proud of the work I have done the past two years. I brought motions to the committee that they supported to develop our three ad-hoc committees on Safety and Climate; Housing, Infrastructure and Broadband, and Walkability, Disability and Complete Streets. I am extremely proud of the letter we crafted together as an Ad-Hoc Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure EAC Subcommittee that advised Secretary Toks Omishakin, Undersecretary Mark Tollefson, Deputy Director Darwin Moosavi and other CalSTA staff on how we can more equitably move forward climate and transportation infrastructure projects in the great State of California. I pushed ardently to give EAC members more of a say on placing items on the EAC meeting agenda.

If I have made it to the festivities we are calling the final December 5, 2024, EAC Meeting in Riverside, it will have been my 77th official meeting attended on behalf of the EAC since March of 2023. I have probably seen more than two dozen geographies, countless Commission reports, dozens of construction projects and conference panels, and an infinite number of recitals of the rules of the road prior to each public meeting we hold, even today, recited most of the time by the Voices of the Commission:

Deputy Director Doug Remedios,
Assistant Clerk Justin Hall, and
Commission Extraordinaire Magician Brandy Fleming who (is often silent but ever present) makes everything on Zoom happen.

I cannot say much on behalf of the Committee, but I think they would all agree we owe you three, and the following EAC supporting cast:

Sequoia Erasmus of CTC Staff,
Denise Mitchell of CTC Staff,
Carolyn Abrams of Caltrans Staff,
Laura Pennebaker of CTC Staff
Undersecretary Mark Tollefson of CalSTA,

Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)
Caltrans | CalSTA | CA Transportation Commission

EAC Member Emerita and Deputy Director of Equity and Tribal Affairs Nailah Pope Harden
Commission Executive Director Tanisha Taylor
Immediate Past Commission Chair Lee Ann Eager
Immediate Past Vice Chair and Current Commission Chair Carl Guardino
Vice Chair Darnell Grisby
The Entire California Transportation Commission and workers of Caltrans, CalSTA and the CTC.
CalSTA Secretary Toks Omishakin
Caltrans Director Tony Tavares
Caltrans Chief Deputy Director Mike Keever
Senate Transportation Committee Chair Hon Sen. Dave Cortese
Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Hon. Asm. Lori Wilson
Governor Gavin Newsom
Federal, State, and Local partners, including Transportation Commission, Regional Transportation Planning, Metropolitan Planning organization partners, Rural Counties Task Force, Self Help Counties Task Force, transportation agency and department partners
Community members, partners, stakeholders, and most importantly members of the public, and anyone else I may have left off. I definitely make mistakes.

It has truly been an honor. I would be happy to support future EAC members, officers, committee chairs and of course whomever the next Chair might be. Thank you for this opportunity.

Kindly,

William Walker, Chair
Interagency Equity Advisory Committee
Caltrans | CalSTA | Transportation Commission
wwalker.cal@gmail.com