

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 26-27, 2025

From: Tanisha Taylor, Executive Director

Reference Number: 1.13 Information

Prepared By: C. Sequoia Erasmus
Associate Deputy Director

Published Date: June 13, 2025

Subject: Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Updates

Summary:

May Committee Meetings Recap

The Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) met on May 14, 2025. A Business meeting, attended by Committee members, was held during the morning of May 14 to discuss and deliberate next steps on the utilization of subcommittees to accomplish advisory goals associated with the interagency work plan.

An Executive meeting, held during the afternoon of May 14, was attended by Committee members, California Transportation Commission (Commission) Commissioners and Executive Director, the Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), and the Deputy Director of Equity and Tribal Affairs at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). During the Executive meeting, members and executives discussed next steps on a draft mission, vision, and foundational principles for transportation equity, discussed the 2025 Committee work plan, and received an update from the Caltrans Director's Office of Equity and Tribal Affairs regarding Caltrans' community engagement efforts.

Committee members took action during the Business meeting to approve the following three ad hoc subcommittees:

1. Community Engagement Policies and Practices
 - a. This ad hoc subcommittee will focus on community engagement policies and practices, such as the Caltrans Statewide Community Engagement Playbook.
2. Transportation Planning and Program Guidance
 - a. This ad hoc subcommittee will focus on long-range planning efforts, such as Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) 2.0 implementation.
3. Data Implementation
 - a. This ad hoc subcommittee will focus on data-driven decision-making tools and practices, supporting equitable investments in transportation infrastructure and programs, such as providing advisory support in Caltrans Equity Index Use Case Development.

Ad hoc subcommittees are anticipated to meet bi-monthly in June, August and November 2025, and in February 2026. Interagency lead staff are working with ad hoc subcommittee members to finalize meeting dates and ad hoc subcommittee meeting agendas

The next full Committee meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on September 5, 2025. Meeting materials and links to join can be found at the following website:

<https://catc.ca.gov/meetings-events/equity-advisory-committee-2025-meetings>

Committee Member Advisory Involvement in Commission Programs

Participating members have completed their review of the community engagement narratives in project applications for the Commission's Senate Bill 1 Competitive Programs' fourth funding cycle. Committee member input influences funding award recommendations in the upcoming fourth SB 1 funding cycle, which is slated to award over \$1.4 billion to transportation projects at the June 2025 Commission Meeting.

Additionally, Committee members were invited to review the 2026 Draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Guidelines and provide feedback to staff via member briefings throughout the month of May 2025. Member feedback included adding a glossary of terms into the updated guidelines, which is reflected in the updated draft.

Committee Member Update

Committee member and accessibility consultant Peggy Martinez will provide a presentation on pedestrian safety and accessibility, focusing on those with blindness, low-vision, and other vulnerable populations.

Peggy Martinez, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator (ADAC), has worked in disability accessibility since 1996 in access technology, as a business owner, in higher education, and in non-profit management.

In 2015, Peggy launched her second sole proprietorship, Creative Inclusion, in response to requests from designers and planners for her expertise in accessible technology, wayfinding, public transport, recreation, and entertainment. Peggy works with cross-functional teams to address diverse accessibility requests in the built environment and public realm.

Creative Inclusion combines existing legislation and best practices to develop accessibility solutions promoting safety, independence, enjoyment, and dignity, enhancing projects from concept through completion to meet client goals. Clients include architecture and landscape firms, global tech and movie companies, transit-oriented development teams, and state and local transportation agencies.

Services include:

- Accessible walkability and tactile wayfinding advisement
- Inclusive event planning and engagement training
- Disability awareness and customer service training
- Policy development Services
- Usability testing

Background:

The Committee is a priority for the Commission, Caltrans, and 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.