

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 4-5, 2025

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 1.13, Information

Prepared By: C. Sequoia Erasmus
Associate Deputy Director

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Subject: Commission Equity Initiatives Update

Summary:

Equity Advisory Committee Member Update

Committee member Naomi Iwasaki will provide an update on the work she's been undertaking during her tenure on the Committee.

Naomi Iwasaki is Vice President - Transportation Planning at Steer, an infrastructure and services consulting firm in Los Angeles. She is a nationally recognized transportation equity leader and has worked on a diverse range of transportation planning projects and equity initiatives in the nonprofit, public, and private sectors. Prior to joining Steer, Naomi served as Senior Director in LA Metro's Office of Equity and Race, Director of Neighborhood Services and Great Streets in the Office of Los Angeles Mayor, Project Manager/Planning and Operations Coordinator in New York City Department of Transportation's Bicycle Program, as well as LA-based transportation policy advocacy nonprofits including Investing in Place and Community Health Councils. She is currently a board member of Little Tokyo Service Center, a 45-year-old community development and social services nonprofit in Los Angeles; serves on the Los Angeles County Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force; and is the Chair of the Equity Advisory Committee Data Implementation Subcommittee. Naomi is thankful to be raising her two children with her husband in her hometown of Los Angeles. Go Dodgers!

Committee Activities Update

- *Senate Bill 1 Competitive Funding Programs*
 - Committee members who reviewed the community engagement narratives in project applications for the California Transportation Commission's (Commission) Senate Bill 1 Competitive Programs' fourth funding cycle were invited to participate in individual debrief sessions with Senate Bill 1 program managers. These sessions provided an opportunity for members to reflect on their review experience and offer suggestions for improvement in future program cycles.

- The Senate Bill 1 Programming Team presented their debrief findings to the Community Engagement Policies and Practices Subcommittee for further discussion. In Cycle 4, updates to the program guidelines placed greater emphasis on community engagement and equity considerations, making committee member review even more integral to the evaluation process.
- Committee member input helped inform the assessment of these elements and influenced the funding award recommendations considered by the Commission. At its June 2025 meeting, the Commission awarded more than \$1.4 billion to transportation projects through the Senate Bill 1 Competitive Programs.
- *Active Transportation Program Guidelines Briefings for Committee Members*
 - The Active Transportation Program (ATP) has started updating the program Guidelines for the 2027 ATP, which will be Cycle 8 of the program. Commission staff are seeking member advisory support via focused briefings to provide feedback on the guidelines. Committee member's feedback will be incorporated into the draft guidelines.
- *Vehicle Weight Safety Study (Assembly Bill 251)*
 - Commission staff will present an informational update to the Committee members at an upcoming Transportation Policy and Program Guidance Subcommittee. The presentation will summarize the Task Force findings and solicit additional feedback from Committee members. Commission staff will use this feedback and the Task Force findings to develop the Commission's report to the Legislature pursuant to Assembly Bill 251. Staff will return to the Committee with the draft report in early 2026, with additional opportunities to provide feedback.
- *Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan Guidelines*
 - Commission staff held a series of informational briefings to provide additional context for Committee members on the Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) Guidelines. Committee members were asked to provide written comments with their feedback on the guidelines by August 15, 2025. Staff shared the feedback received with the Transportation Planning and Program Guidance Subcommittee on August 25, 2025. Feedback was incorporated into the draft guidelines which were presented at the October Commission meeting with final adoption anticipated at the December 2025 Commission meeting. The guidelines will apply to comprehensive corridor plans initiated or updated after final adoption.
- *People and Communities First Action Plan*
 - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) People and Community First Action Plan, the next iteration of the Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP), is designed to ensure that Caltrans delivers on its mission to improve lives and communities through transportation. The People and Community First Action Plan will be implemented over a three-year period, beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028. This timeline aligns with the Caltrans 2024–2028 Strategic Plan and provides a structured framework for advancing equity-centered goals across all districts, divisions, and programs.

- An update will be provided at the December 2025 Equity Advisory Committee meeting.
- *Statewide Community Engagement Playbook*
 - The Caltrans Statewide Community Engagement Playbook (Statewide Playbook) is an action item from the 2021 Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI). The Statewide Playbook will document best practices for Caltrans' planning and project development to support institutionalizing meaningful community engagement practices within the department. Based on the Statewide Playbook, Caltrans Districts will develop District-specific Community Engagement Playbooks to address the unique needs and organization of each District.
 - The Community Engagement Policies and Practices Subcommittee received a presentation on the Statewide Playbook at the June 2025 subcommittee meeting and a presentation specifically focused on Chapter 4 of the Playbook: "How We Work Together" at the August 2025 subcommittee meeting. Chapter 4 covers recommended strategies and best practices for building working relationships, as well as platforms and methods for conducting engagement. Subcommittee members were asked to provide feedback that will inform the final version of the Statewide Playbook, anticipated for completion in the spring of 2026.
 - Caltrans staff anticipate returning to the full Committee in the spring of 2026 to review the feedback received from Committee members and other external partners and discuss what feedback was incorporated into the final Statewide Playbook.
- *Equity Index Use Case Development*
 - The Data Implementation Subcommittee received an introductory presentation on the Caltrans Equity Index (EQI) at the June 2025 subcommittee meeting and a technical presentation on the EQI at the August 2025 subcommittee meeting.
 - Subcommittee members have been asked to inform the implementation of the EQI, including the development and review of both internal and external use cases. The EQI is expected to improve Caltrans' analysis of project impacts and improve project planning, development, and design. The tool can also be applied externally to planning and decision-making processes for other transportation agencies and community partners.
 - Caltrans staff returned to the Data Implementation Subcommittee in November with opportunities to inform use case development. Collaboration with the subcommittee will continue into 2026.
- *Caltrans' Director's Policy on Public Transit*
 - The Transportation Planning and Program Guidance Subcommittee received a presentation at the August 2025 subcommittee meeting on the Caltrans Director's Policy on Public Transit (Transit Policy). The subcommittee received a follow-up presentation at the November 2025 subcommittee meeting about opportunities to provide input on the Transit Policy Implementation Plan.

- The Transit Policy will provide high-level, long-range direction to Caltrans on transit-related activities, including improvements to transit facilities on the State Highway System, enhanced state collaboration in transit planning, and modernization of transit data and technology.

December Executive Meeting Update

On December 3, 2025, the Committee will hold an Executive meeting of members and Executives from the Commission, Caltrans, and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). Members will receive a presentation from Chair Martha Armas Kelly and Member Keri Akemi-Hernandez showcasing the final graphically enhanced report of the recently approved Vision, Mission, and Foundational Principles for Transportation Equity. Members will receive an informational presentation from Caltrans staff focused on the People and Community First Action Plan and an informational overview from CalSTA staff regarding the State's Role to Ensure Safety in Transportation. As the final meeting of 2025, members will look back at the year's Committee and subcommittee accomplishments, look ahead to 2026, and take a moment to appreciate Martha Armas Kelly as the outgoing Committee Chair.

Application Period for the 2026 – 2028 Term of the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee

The application period for individuals interested in serving a two-year term as a member of the Committee was open from September 8 until October 19, 2025. New terms begin in February 2026. Three spots are available.

Interagency staff are reviewing applications and conducting interviews with eligible, well-qualified candidates throughout the months of November and December 2025. Final recommendations for new or returning Committee members will be announced and approved at the January 30, 2026 meeting of the Commission.

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 they relate to transportation planning and programming.

Attachment:

- Attachment A: Interagency Equity Advisory Committee 2025 Year In Review 2-Page Flyer



ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

2025 MEMBERS

- **Martha Armas Kelly, Chair**
- **Ana Gonzalez*, Vice Chair**
- Keri Akemi-Hernandez
- Lisa Marie Alvarado
- David Azevedo
- Abimael Chavez-Hernandez
- Gloria Huerta
- Naomi Iwasaki*
- Peggy Martinez
- Andres Ramirez
- Michelle Rousey
- Florence Simon
- Randy Torres-Van Vleck*
- Pualani Vazquez
- Howard Wong



*Subcommittee Chair

COMMITTEE INITIATIVES

- Vision, Mission, and Foundational Principles for Transportation Equity Approved
- Approved three ad hoc Subcommittees:
 - **Community Engagement Policies and Practices**
 - **Transportation Planning and Program Guidance**
 - **Data Implementation**

STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

- Federal Transit Administration 5310 Program application review
 - Influenced **\$55 Million** Towards Urban + Rural Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and People with Disabilities
- Senate Bill 1 Funding Programs
 - Review of Community Engagement Narratives for 2025
 - Influenced **\$1.4 Billion** in funding

PROGRAMS + GUIDELINES

- Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan advisory support, feedback incorporated into 2025 guidelines
- California Freight Mobility Plan Survey
- Active Transportation Program Cycle 8 Guidelines Development



2025 AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICIES + PRACTICES

- **Chair: Randy Torres-Van Vleck**
- Advised on
 - Caltrans Community Engagement Playbook
 - Provided feedback on Chapter 4 “How We Work Together”, covering strategies and best practices for building working relationships
 - Will be incorporated into final 2026 document
 - Commission Senate Bill 1 Funding Program Updates
 - Report back on experiences from EAC reviewers; members felt empowered to evaluate honestly, need to ensure applications are remediated for ADA
 - EAC will be sought as Subject Matter Experts to develop updates to 2026 SB 1 Guidelines Equity Supplement
 - Caltrans Guidance for Engaging with Disability Communities
 - Discussion and resource development, will influence statewide disability engagement guidance

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING + PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- **Chair: Ana Gonzalez**
- Advised on
 - Caltrans Director’s Transit Policy Discussion, will inform development of Transit Policy implementation plan
 - Commission Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan Guidelines feedback and updates
 - CalSTA Transit Transformation Task Force updates
 - Commission Vehicle Weight Safety Study
 - Provided feedback on Task Force findings which will be used to develop report to the Legislature

DATA IMPLEMENTATION

- **Chair: Naomi Iwasaki**
- Advised on
 - Caltrans Equity Index Use Case development, possible use cases are being considered
 - Commission Assembly Bill 744 Transportation Data Collaboration Initiative

