

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: January 29-30, 2026

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 1.13, Action

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Subject: Commission Equity Initiatives Update and New Equity Advisory Committee Membership Recommendations

## **Recommendation:**

Requested Action: California Transportation Commission (Commission) staff, in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), recommend the Commission approve membership for the interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) as outlined in Attachment A. Approving this recommendation will help ensure the committee reflects diverse perspectives and lived experiences, strengthening the Commission's ability to advance equitable policies, projects, and programs.

Informational Update: Committee member Gloria Huerta will provide updates and insights into her experience with the Committee. Gloria is the Chief Operating Officer for Miocar, a nonprofit, equity-focused, electric vehicle car sharing service for rural and underserved communities in California. Additionally, an update on recent Committee member advisory opportunities is included for reference in Attachment B.

## **Issue:**

Currently, four Committee seats are open for the 2026-2028 term. The interagency staff team has developed recommendations for candidates to fill these seats. The selection process prioritized elevating historically marginalized voices from throughout the state who represent diverse personal, professional, and lived experiences. Once approved, these members will provide recommendations to the Commission, Caltrans, and CalSTA on achieving meaningful outcomes in transportation equity, environmental justice, and equitable economic opportunities, particularly in transportation planning and programming.

***Membership call and selection process***

On September 8, 2025, the Commission, Caltrans, and CalSTA issued a call for applicants to join the Committee. The application period remained open until October 19, 2025.

A total of 39 individuals applied. Applications were received from individuals residing in each of the twelve Caltrans districts except for District 2 and District 9, which are located in Redding and Bishop respectively. Applicants represented the diversity of California through their personal or professional experience. This includes the following groups: Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Pacific Islander, Southeast Asian, or other communities of color; Priority Populations (as identified in Senate Bill 535, De Leon, 2012); younger adults ages 18-35; people with disabilities; older adults (over 55); migrant or immigrant communities; rural communities; people experiencing homelessness; farm or agricultural workers; and members of a Native American Tribe.

The interagency team collaborated with staff from regional transportation agencies to review and discuss applications for Committee membership. To achieve a balanced and representative Committee, the team assessed applicants based on geographic, demographic, and professional or civic experience with a focus on elevating diverse and historically marginalized voices.

The team conducted 30-minute interviews with 15 top-ranked candidates and performed reference checks for the finalists, of which four individuals are recommended to serve on the Committee.

While there was great diversity in the applicant pool, applications from individuals who represent labor, economic development, and/or commerce were minimal. Additionally, there is a history of low engagement from applicants in certain Caltrans districts of the state. To expand outreach during this recruitment cycle, interagency staff requested Commissioners and existing Committee members share the opportunity within their social networks and distributed the application to district equity leads. Looking ahead, interagency staff will continue these outreach efforts and further strengthen engagement by partnering with regional and sector-specific organizations to increase awareness. In an effort to continue to bring these important perspectives to this work in 2026, staff will identify external partners to provide information and share priorities from these underrepresented sectors and geographies, while also utilizing relationships to bolster interest in the Committee from individuals with these expertise and geographic perspective.

**Background:**

In June 2022, the Commission approved the creation of an interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) and directed staff to issue a call for applicants during Summer 2022. Detailed information about the Committee can be found [in the June 2022 Commission agenda attachment \(https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/ctc-meetings/2022/2022-06/16-4-3-a11y.pdf\)](https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/ctc-meetings/2022/2022-06/16-4-3-a11y.pdf).

Since then, staff from the Commission, Caltrans, and CalSTA have collaboratively developed membership recommendations. The founding membership recommendations were approved at the Commission's October 12-13, 2022, meeting, with subsequent approvals to fill open seats in March 2024, May 2024, and January 2025.

As stated in the charter, members are eligible to serve three consecutive two-year terms on the Committee. Committee members are entitled to payment of \$100 for each day attending and supporting Committee-related activities, as identified and pre-approved by interagency lead staff. Members are also entitled to reimbursement for actual travel expenses incurred, in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the California Department of Human Resources.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Recommended Membership for the 2026-2028 Interagency Equity Advisory Committee
- Attachment B: December 3, 2025, Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Executive Meeting Tab 9: Interagency Updates

## Recommended Membership for the 2026-2028 Interagency Equity Advisory Committee

**Accessibility and Disability Perspective**

1. Michelle Rousey<sup>1</sup>
  - District 4, Bay Area / Oakland
  - Professional or Civic Background: Aging and disability advocate. Experience serving on the East Bay Paratransit Advisory Committee and the statewide Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee.

**Mobility Justice**

2. Andres Ramirez<sup>1</sup>
  - District 7, Los Angeles / Ventura
  - Professional or Civic Background: Executive Director, People for Mobility Justice. Member of Metro Policy Advisory Council. Extensive experience in representing mobility justice and partnering with community residents to advance environmental justice and transportation equity within underserved areas in Southern California.

**Public Health**

3. Anthony Gittens
  - District 8, Riverside / San Bernardino
    - Professional District Affiliation: District 7, Los Angeles / Ventura and District 12, Orange<sup>2</sup>
  - Professional or Civic Background: Public Health Strategist for the U.S. Navy. Extensive experience in program planning, patient education, and disease prevention. Has collaborated in the creation of sustainable healthcare systems around the world, including Ukraine, Angola, Honduras, and Thailand.

**Car Share, Economic Development - Rural**

4. Gloria Huerta<sup>1</sup>
  - District 3, Sacramento / Marysville
    - Professional District Affiliation: District 4, Bay Area / Oakland, District 5, San Luis Obispo, District 6, Fresno, and District 10, Stockton<sup>2</sup>
  - Professional or Civic Background: Chief Operating Officer for Miocar, a nonprofit, equity-focused, electric vehicle car sharing service for rural and underserved communities in California. Extensive experience partnering with community stakeholders to advance climate justice, workforce development, and transportation access.

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<sup>1</sup> 2024-2026 Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Member

<sup>2</sup> Members may use their professional affiliation to represent additional areas across California.