

# Memorandum

**To:** CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

**CTC Meeting:** March 19-20, 2026

**From:** TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

**Reference Number:** 4.5, Information

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**Subject:** Hearing on the 2027 Active Transportation Program Guidelines

## **Summary:**

The purpose of this public hearing is to take final comments on the 2027 Active Transportation Program Guidelines prior to the California Transportation Commission's (Commission) adoption under Reference Number 4.6.

The 2027 Active Transportation Program Guidelines describe the policy, standards, criteria, and procedures for the development, adoption, and management of the Active Transportation Program. The guidelines address statutory requirements, incorporate input from various partners and stakeholders, and include the Commission's procedures for programming and delivery.

Commission staff presented the draft 2027 Active Transportation Program Guidelines at the January 29-30, 2026, Commission meeting. As part of that presentation, Commission staff highlighted that noteworthy changes to the 2027 guidelines include the addition of funding restrictions for Class III bikeways and sharrows per Senate Bill 1216 (Blakespear, Chapter 788, Statutes of 2024). In addition, stakeholders supported the removal of the Quick-Build Pilot Program in the Statewide and Small Urban and Rural components. Commission staff conducted a workshop on February 5, 2026, after the draft 2027 Active Transportation Program Guidelines were presented at the January 2026 Commission meeting. That workshop focused on the scoring rubrics and did not result in any changes to the guidelines. There are no substantive changes to the draft 2027 Active Transportation Program Guidelines.

The 2027 Active Transportation Program Guidelines were prepared in consultation with the Active Transportation Program Technical Advisory Committee, and as required by statute, the Active Transportation Program Workgroup (workgroup). The workgroup is comprised of representatives from the California Department of Transportation, regional transportation planning agencies, local agencies, community-based organizations, the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee, and active transportation program stakeholders with expertise in walking, biking, rolling, safe routes to school projects, and social equity.

Commission staff held 10 public workshops from August 2025 to February 2026 to solicit input and discuss updates to the 2027 Active Transportation Program Guidelines, applications, and scoring rubrics. Commission staff have worked with the workgroup over seven cycles to refine, streamline, and ensure consistency in the program. In consultation with the Active Transportation Program Technical Advisory Committee, Commission staff propose minimal changes to the 2027 Active Transportation Program to maintain program consistency and allow repeat applicants to focus on strengthening responses based on evaluator feedback rather than overhauling their applications.

**Background:**

The Active Transportation Program was created by Senate Bill 99 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 359, Statutes of 2013) and Assembly Bill 101 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 354, Statutes of 2013) to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. Senate Bill 1 (Beall, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017) directs additional funding from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account to the Active Transportation Program. Along with the program's overall purpose of encouraging walking and biking, the program aims to increase the share of walking and biking trips, increase safety and mobility for non-motorized users, help regional agencies achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals, enhance public health, ensure that disadvantaged communities fully share in program benefits, and provide a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users.

The 2027 Active Transportation Program will provide four years of funding in fiscal years 2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30, and 2030-31, totaling \$619,320,000. The 2027 Active Transportation Program represents the program's eighth cycle.

The Active Transportation Program continues to face significant unmet demand, as communities across the state look to the program to fund critical active transportation projects needed to meet California's safety, climate, and equity goals. Sustained and additional funding is needed to fund the hundreds of critically needed high-quality projects that remain unfunded each cycle.

The guideline development workshops were open to all interested stakeholders, including state, federal, local, and regional agencies, tribal governments, and organizations interested in walking, biking, active transportation, safe routes to school projects, environmental, social equity, and other perspectives.

Commission staff conducted various technical assistance activities to help potential applicants with their applications for 2027 Active Transportation Program funding. In February 2026 three virtual Branch Workshops were hosted to provide an overview of the Active Transportation Program and provide tips and guidance on each application question. In addition, since January 2025, Commission staff have met with agencies to debrief on 82 Cycle 7 applications. Beginning September 2025, Commission staff hosted over 56 virtual site visits to discuss more than 74 projects across 29 counties.