

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 14–15, 2026

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

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Subject: Commission Equity Initiatives Update

Summary:

Commission Equity Advisory Opportunities

The Interagency Transportation Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) advises the California Transportation Commission (Commission), California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The following is a summary of recent advisory opportunities offered to the Committee by the Commission, including outcomes related to Committee participation.

Vehicle Weight Safety Study (Assembly Bill 251)

- The draft Vehicle Weight Safety Study Report to the Legislature was presented to the Committee on March 4, 2026.
- Members provided feedback and questions on topics including out of state vehicle purchases, roadway design, mitigation strategies for the impacts of higher potential fees on disabled individuals with disabilities and disadvantaged communities, testing of vehicle design for pedestrian collision outcomes, electric vehicle considerations, potential relationships between heavier vehicles and pedestrian fatality rates, and examples from other states and countries.
- The final Report includes clarifying edits addressing feedback received from Committee members. Commission staff noted feedback outside the legislative scope of the Report for future consideration.
- The Report's legislative considerations also reflect feedback from members of the Transportation Planning and Program Guidance Subcommittee on the potential benefit of a motor vehicle nonoccupant safety assessment.

Senate Bill 1 Cycle 5 Funding Program Guidelines Transportation Equity Supplement

- Commission staff shared an opportunity to provide input on Senate Bill (SB) 1 guidelines development for the Local Partnership Program, Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, and the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program. Activities occurred between March and April of 2026 and included member briefings with Commission staff and independent review of policy documents.
- Specifically, members are actively providing recommendations on how the Commission can improve SB 1 program policies related to equity and community engagement in the Senate Bill 1 Equity Supplement. Additionally, members are actively providing input on workforce development considerations and other key policy updates.
- Participating members help shape how approximately \$1.5 billion in funding is awarded across rail, transit, highway, active transportation, congestion relief, and freight projects within the context of applicable laws. Additionally, Members enhanced their knowledge of the Commission's programs and gained insight into program development and how to stay involved moving forward.

Assembly Bill 194 Tolling Guidelines

- The Commission's Engineering team will seek a few subject matter experts from the Committee who would be interested in providing input on the upcoming update of the Commission's Assembly Bill (AB) 194 Tolling Guidelines.
- The purpose of these guidelines is to set forth the Commission's policy for carrying out its role in implementing AB 194 and to assist the regional transportation agencies and Caltrans when contemplating an application to the Commission for approval to develop and operate high-occupancy toll lanes or other toll facilities.
- The update to the guidelines is expected to be carried out through a series of workshops over the summer, and final updated guidelines are targeted for adoption in the winter.

Zero-Emission Vehicle Equity Action Plan

- The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GoBiz) Equity team is currently developing the ZEV Equity Action Plan and anticipates releasing a public-facing draft in May for stakeholder feedback. The public comment period is expected to start in May 2026. Commission staff coordinated a GoBiz presentation to the full Committee in March 2026, followed by an opportunity to provide direct feedback to GoBiz via ad hoc subcommittee in June 2026.

2027 Active Transportation Program – Call for Evaluators

- The 2027 Active Transportation Program (Cycle 8) call for projects was released following the adoption of the guidelines at the March 2026 Commission meeting. Each cycle, Commission staff recruit over 100 volunteers to evaluate the applications submitted for consideration. Committee members have an opportunity to be part of the 2027 Active Transportation Program evaluation process. The call for evaluators was sent to Committee members on March 23 and 25, 2026, and the deadline to submit the interest form was May 1, 2026.

Equity Advisory Committee Update

The Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) will hold Business and Executive meetings on May 13, 2026 in San Jose.

The next Committee meeting will be held on August 19, 2026 in San Diego.

Equity Advisory Committee ad hoc Subcommittees Update: April 2026

The Data Implementation ad hoc subcommittee met on April 16, 2026.

The Transportation Planning and Program Guidance met on April 17, 2026.

The Community Engagement Policies and Practices ad hoc subcommittee met on April 20, 2026.

Subcommittees will continue to meet virtually throughout the month of June on items related to the Interagency Work Plan.

Committee Member Update

Committee member Florence Simon will provide updates and insights into their experience with the Committee. Member Simon is a transportation and public sector leader with a deep commitment to advancing equity and climate goals through thoughtful transportation investments. Member Simon served as Director of the Mayor’s Office of Innovation in San Francisco and Associate Director for Implementation at the Department of Transportation, where she oversaw deployment of over \$660 Billion in federal funding. Member Simon was also a consultant at McKinsey and Chief of Staff at Generate Capital, a sustainable infrastructure investment firm. Member Simon studied at Harvard University and Cambridge University, where she was a Fulbright Scholar. Member Simon lives in San Francisco and loves taking advantage of all the natural beauty and cultural experiences that the Bay Area has to offer.

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.

Commission staff continue to integrate principles and strategies from the Vision, Mission and Foundational Principles for Transportation Equity, which was adopted and approved by the Committee and Commission in late 2025. The document provides seven foundational principles that Commission staff are applying to varying aspects of Commission work products. For example, in March 2026, staff participated in an all-hands strategy development session where the principles were applied to discuss a project request. The Foundational Principles are:

- Acknowledge Past Harms
- Partnership and Collaboration
- Center Community Practices
- Prioritize Safety
- Economic Opportunity
- Access and Mobility
- Systemic Change