

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 25-26, 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 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 was approved at the May 14-15, 2026, Commission meeting and includes clarifying edits addressing feedback received from Committee members.
- Commission staff noted feedback outside the legislative scope of the Report for future consideration.

#### *Senate Bill 1 Cycle 5 Funding Program Guidelines - Transportation Equity Supplement*

- Committee members provided recommendations on how the Commission can improve Senate Bill (SB) 1 program policies related to equity and community engagement in the SB 1 Equity Supplement and community engagement evaluation criteria, as well as input on workforce development considerations and other key policy updates. Committee member input was incorporated into the draft program guidelines and SB 1 Equity Supplement.

- For example, the draft Equity Supplement includes expanded guidance on inclusive community engagement practices and accessibility accommodations. The draft evaluation criteria include added emphasis on how engagement opportunities were made accessible to a broad range of participants, and during which project development phase engagement was conducted. Commission staff will further debrief Committee Members on how their feedback was incorporated into the guidelines later this year.
- As part of the upcoming SB 1 application review process, participating Members will 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 will enhance 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 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 soon for stakeholder feedback. The public comment period is expected to start in Fall 2026. Commission staff coordinated a GoBiz presentation to the full Committee in March 2026. Members will have an opportunity to provide direct feedback to GoBiz at an ad hoc subcommittee in Fall 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. The call for evaluators was sent to Committee members on March 23 and 25, 2026, for an opportunity to be a part of the 2027 Active Transportation Program evaluation process. A total of six Committee Members have requested to participate in this process. Commission staff held mandatory training sessions from May 28th through June 10th.
- The 2027 Active Transportation Program application deadline is June 22, 2026. Applications will be distributed to evaluator teams for review shortly thereafter. Staff recommendations for the 2027 Active Transportation Program, Statewide and Small Urban & Rural Components will be posted on November 2, 2026.

**Equity Advisory Committee Update**

The Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) held 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: June 2026*

Subcommittees will 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 apply 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