

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: August 20-21, 2026

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 1.13, Information

Prepared By: C. Sequoia Erasmus
Associate Deputy Director

Published Date: August 7, 2026

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.

2027 – 2029 Member Recruitment Cycle Opens August 12

The 2027-29 EAC Member Recruitment cycle opens on August 12, 2026. The application will remain open through September 20, 2026. The application will be posted to the [Committee website](#) and shared through social media and email outreach.

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. The guidelines will be presented for Commission approval at its August 2026 meeting.
- Several key themes emerged from engagement with Committee subject matter experts and subcommittee members, and staff incorporated several revisions in response, including:
 - New guidance in the Equity Supplement related to inclusive engagement practices, including community-relevant meeting locations and times, supportive accommodations, and accessible formats for individuals with disabilities and non-English speakers;

- New language in the Equity Supplement related to building community trust, including through consistent follow-up and transparency, culturally competent communication, and the acknowledgment of past harms that contribute to community distrust.
- A new application question asking applicants to identify the phases during which community members were engaged.
- Additional displacement definitions in the Equity Supplement, and a new application question on how applicants assessed unintended project consequences, including displacement; and
- A new Tribal Engagement resources section in the Equity Supplement.
- 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 Update

- In August 2026 Commission staff will seek 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 (Frazier, Chapter 687, Statutes of 2015) 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 will be carried out through workshops which will be held in September. Members can add any additional feedback then.
- 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 are participating in this process as reviewers.

- The application deadline for the 2027 Active Transportation Program was June 22, 2026. The Commission received 317 project nominations, with a total requested amount of nearly \$3 billion. The program capacity for Cycle 8 is \$619.32 million.
- 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 Committee held a Business meeting on August 19, 2026 in San Diego.

The next Committee meeting will be held on October 8, 2026, in Redding.

Equity Advisory Committee ad hoc Subcommittees Update: June 2026

Subcommittees met virtually throughout the month of June on items related to the Interagency Work Plan.

Committee Member Update

Committee member Randy Torres-Van Vleck will provide updates and insights into their experience with the Committee.

Randy Torres Van Vleck works with community members to envision the kind of neighborhood they want to live in, brings community and government together to have that vision represented in plans and policies, and advocates for the implementation of that vision.

As a community development specialist working closely with residents, Randy has played a leadership role on dozens of initiatives that have resulted in over \$150 million in built active transportation infrastructure, transit, parks, and affordable housing. Those projects have included the State Route 15 Centerline Bus Rapid Transit Stations, State Route 15 Commuter Bikeway, pedestrian infrastructure in Somali Town, and the Global Village that's creating 150 affordable housing units.

Randy is Co-Founder and Principal of Tocayo Engagement, an urban planning and community development consulting firm. He manages a Reconnecting Communities project for an environmental justice-focused community-based organization, Mundo Gardens. *Reconnecting Southeast San Diego & National City* builds on the City of San Diego Southeastern San Diego Community Plan which calls for four interchange ramps from the halted SR-252 freeway to be removed. This freeway removal project would unlock 57 acres of land for community benefits, a park, blue/green infrastructure, affordable housing, a community land trust, and local streets.

In Bike Month of 2026, Randy became a League of American Bicyclists Organizational Coach representing the San Diego County Bike Coalition. He's taught hundreds of bike safety courses and now as a coach he certifies the next generation of League Cycling Instructors. Randy will be serving on the California Office of Traffic Safety's new Go Safely California Multicultural Advisory Council. Randy is co-founder and co-organizer of Los Cruzadores ("The Crossers") which leads transborder bike rides from San Diego to Tijuana. He's led over 1,000 people across the border in celebration of the beautiful San Diego/Tijuana binational megaregion.

Graduating with honors, Randy earned a BA in Sociology and a Minor in Urban Studies & Planning from UC San Diego. He completed a Master of Public Affairs at UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy. Randy grew up in the Castle Park neighborhood of Chula Vista near the U.S./Mexico where he lived with his mom; an immigrant from Brazil. He lives in City Heights, San Diego – Traditional Kumeyaay Land.

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. The Foundational Principles are:

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