

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: October 15-16, 2026

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 1.13, Information

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Published Date: October 2, 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 Opened August 12

The 2027-2029 Committee recruitment cycle opened on August 12, 2026 and remained open through September 20, 2026. Applicants will be notified of selection in early 2027. The application was posted on the [Committee website](#) and shared through social media and email outreach.

2027 Active Transportation Program

- The 2027 Active Transportation Program (Cycle 8) call for projects was released following the adoption of the guidelines at the March 2026 Commission meeting.
- Six Committee Members signed up to participate 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 \$619.3 million.
- Staff recommendations for the 2027 Active Transportation Program, Statewide and Small Urban & Rural Components will be posted on the Commission's website on November 2, 2026.

Assembly Bill 194 Tolling Guidelines

- In August 2026, Commission staff sought subject matter experts from the Committee to provide 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 regional transportation agencies and Caltrans when developing a Toll application to the Commission.
- Reviewing Committee members provided supportive feedback on the proposed changes. Committee member input helped strengthen the guidelines language regarding how agencies address impacts to nearby roads resulting from the implementation of the toll facility, and transit and active transportation considerations
- Draft guidelines were shared with the public on September 2, 2026. A public workshop was held on September 16, 2026.
- Staff will present the draft at the October CTC meeting, with adoption planned for Winter 2026.

Zero-Emission Vehicle Equity Action Plan

- The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) Equity team is currently developing the Zero-Emission Vehicle (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 GO-Biz presentation to the Committee in March 2026. This will be followed by an opportunity to provide direct feedback to GO-Biz through the Community Engagement Policies and Practices Ad Hoc Subcommittee in late 2026.

Equity Advisory Committee Update

The Committee held a Business meeting on October 8, 2026, in Redding.

The next Business and Executive Committee meetings will be held on December 2, 2026, in Southern California.

Equity Advisory Committee Ad hoc Subcommittees Update: Fall 2026

Subcommittees did not meet virtually during the month of September. Subcommittees will reconvene in October and November on items related to the Interagency Work Plan.

Committee Member Update

Committee members Lisa Marie Alvarado and Martha Armas-Kelly will provide updates and insights into their experience with the Committee.

Lisa Marie Alvarado

Lisa Marie Alvarado is regenerating Central Valley neighborhoods through community education, wellness, and advocacy. Birthing Womxwise in 2020 she's created public art exhibitions, community art classes, and a coalition taking on civic investments. She began hosting sister circles within the greater San Joaquin Valley incubating place-based leadership and a network for womxn. Lisa advocates at both the local and state level for "transportation wholeness." She takes a special interest in organizing locally around dignified labor, transit liquidity, and infrastructure.

Her tenure in organizing and leadership began as an organizer with ACT for Women and Girls through the Female Leadership Academy. From participant to Program Manager, Lisa created and curated curricula in Women's Leadership, Social Justice, and Civic Empowerment. Her appetite for wellness led her to Berkeley, California with The Organizing and Leadership Academy where she was instrumental in defeating Big Soda with our nation's first-ever soda tax. Born and raised in the heart of the Valley - Visalia, California, Lisa is the daughter of High School sweethearts Yvette and Lisandro Alvarado and the eldest sister of five siblings. Her upbringing in after-school programs, daycares, and time at grandma's house is what seasons Lisa's organizing style and desire to serve. When Lisa's not on her bike or playing outdoors, you can find her boosting and celebrating all things local.

Martha Armas-Kelly

A lifelong Central Valley native, artist, and grassroots leader, Martha Armas-Kelly brings over 50 years of lived experience to California's transportation landscape, serving not just as an advocate, but as a vital conduit for systemic change. Raised on a farm in Merced by immigrant parents from Guatemala and Mexico, her life path was forged at the intersection of rural labor, environmental necessity, and community resilience. Beginning at age five as a family interpreter, she learned early that true equity is not an abstract concept, it is the active work of bridging the gap for everyday people struggling to navigate complex, institutional systems.

Across every sector she touches, Martha channels this conductivity to elevate historically marginalized voices and break down structural barriers. For the past three years, she has served on the statewide Interagency Committee—advising the Commission, CalSTA, and Caltrans—where she previously served as Chair and Vice Chair and currently leads as Chair of the Community Engagement Subcommittee. Her governance extends locally to Caltrans District 10's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Stanislaus County Equity Advisory Committee, where she ensures 30-year land-use and active transportation plans actively serve unincorporated and low-income populations.

Her work as a conduit connects immediate community survival with long-term policy reform. As Chief Financial Officer of Community Initiatives for Collective Impact, she builds organizational capacity for environmental and social justice projects, including food-sustainability models like Food Para Todos and targeted anti-hate initiatives for the Hmong community. As Community Coordinator for Planada Action and a former six-year Environmental Justice Coordinator with Catholic Charities, she delivers direct access to food, civic education, and transit information. Beyond her policy work, Martha is a recognized California artist—noted for her Día de los Muertos works—and a multi-genre vocalist who uses art and music as creative drivers to unify, heal, and build deep cultural connections.

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