

INTERAGENCY EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Discussion of Equity Advisory Committee Outcomes

Equity Advisory Committee Executive Meeting | Tab 6

May 15, 2024



CalSTA Equity Statement

Published: June 12, 2020

Transportation systems are about people and improving their quality of life. Unfortunately, those improvements historically have disproportionately benefitted certain segments of the population. Far too often, past transportation decisions quite literally put up barriers, divided communities, and amplified racial inequalities, particularly in our Black and Brown neighborhoods.

The California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) strongly condemns systemic racism and discrimination in all forms, including those historically entrenched in transportation. Enhancing the lives of all Californians – particularly people of color and disadvantaged communities – by connecting individuals to jobs, healthcare, education and other opportunities lie at the heart of what we do and why.

To that end, CalSTA firmly embraces racial equity, inclusion and diversity. These values are foundational to achieving our vision of a cleaner, safer, more accessible and more connected future.

“We will be part of the solution. We will promote policies and programs that reflect principles of diversity, equity and inclusion, and will work with stakeholders to identify areas of improvement. Through these and other efforts, transportation systems have the potential to achieve their intended purpose – to provide safe and equitable access to opportunity and truly enhance quality of life.

EAC Members Support Statewide Transportation Initiatives with CalSTA

Reconnecting Communities Highways to Boulevards (RCH2B) Pilot Program, March 2024

- EAC members supported RCH2B application reviews in 2023.
- EAC Members Randy Torres Van-Vleck, Connie Stewart, and Vice Chair Martha Armas-Kelly joined CalSTA and Caltrans District 11 to announce and celebrate the awarded communities of National City, South San Francisco, and Arcata.

Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) Listening Sessions, April 29 – May 2nd, 2024

- EAC members participated in CAPTI listening sessions, hosted by CalSTA.
- The purpose of the listening sessions was to solicit new ideas for updated actions in CAPTI.



CalSTA Advisory Opportunities

- Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure
- Anti-displacement implementation
- Transit Transformation Task Force
- CalSTA Strategic Plan (newly published!) implementation

Caltrans Equity Statement

Published: December 10, 2020

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) acknowledges that communities of color and under-served communities experienced fewer benefits and a greater share of negative impacts associated with our state's transportation system. Some of these disparities reflect a history of transportation decision-making, policy, processes, planning, design, and construction that "quite literally put up barriers, divided communities, and amplified racial inequities, particularly in our Black and Brown neighborhoods."

Caltrans recognizes our leadership role and unique responsibility in State government to eliminate barriers to provide more equitable transportation for all Californians. This understanding is the foundation for intentional decision-making that recognizes past, stops current, and prevents future harms from our actions.

We will achieve equity when everyone has access to what they need to thrive — starting with our most vulnerable — no matter their race, socioeconomic status, identity, where they live, or how they travel. To create a brighter future for all Californians, Caltrans will implement concrete actions as outlined in our Race & Equity Action Plan, regularly update our Action Plan, and establish clear metrics for accountability in order to achieve the following commitments:

1. **People** - We will create a workforce at all levels that is representative of the communities we serve by improving our recruitment, hiring, contracting, and leadership development policies and practices.
2. **Programs & Projects** - We will meaningfully engage communities most impacted by structural racism in the creation and implementation of the programs and projects that impact their daily lives by creating more transparent, inclusive, and ongoing consultation and collaboration processes. We will achieve our equity commitments through an engagement process where everyone is treated with dignity and justice. We will reform our programs, policies, and procedures based on this engagement to avoid harm to frontline and vulnerable communities. We will prioritize projects that improve access for and provide meaningful benefits to underserved communities.
3. **Partnerships** - By leveraging our transportation investments, we also commit to increasing pathways to opportunity for minority-owned and disadvantaged business enterprises, and for individuals who face systemic barriers to employment.
4. **Planet** - We commit to combating the climate crisis and its disproportionate impact on frontline and vulnerable communities — such as Black and Indigenous peoples, communities of color, the people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and youth. We will change how we plan, design, build, and maintain our transportation investments to create a more resilient system that more equitably distributes the benefits and burdens to the current and future generations of Californians.

EAC Members Reviewed State Applications for Federal Transit Administration 5310 Program

FTA 5310 Program: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, November 2023

- EAC members reviewed almost 500 project applications alongside representatives from the California Department of Aging and the Caltrans District transit agencies.
- Project selection resulted in awards to **nearly 100 agencies** for 196 ADA accessible vehicles, 11 equipment awards, and 79 operating assistance and mobility management projects.
- The State Review Committee played a vital role in following the CTC established scoring criteria to award roughly **\$51.7 million dollars** in this funding cycle.



Caltrans Advisory Opportunities

- Caltrans Equity Index (EQI) Use Case Development
- Caltrans Community Engagement Guidelines and Policies
 - Public Engagement Plan Template and Guide
 - Equitable Engagement Training Module Part 1
 - Caltrans Engagement Portal (Pilot and Statewide Launch)
- Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS)

Commission Racial Equity Statement

Published: January 27, 2021

The California Transportation Commission recognizes that throughout California's history, improvements to the State's transportation system have disproportionately benefitted some population groups and burdened others. The Commission condemns all forms of racism and is actively working to promote equitable outcomes through our programs, policies, and practices.

In the mid-Twentieth Century, California undertook a major expansion of transportation infrastructure aided by an influx of federal funding. While infrastructure improvements were being planned, designed, and constructed, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color were disenfranchised, lacked voting protections, and were underrepresented in government decision-making. New highways were frequently constructed through predominately Black, Latino, Asian, and low-income neighborhoods to meet the needs of primarily white suburban commuters, and through tribal lands. Racist policies and decisions also influenced the siting of other types of transportation infrastructure, such as commuter railways, and the delivery of transit services. The results of racial segregation and disinvestment of transportation funds in communities of color are still visible in cities today.

Californians who live in historically underserved communities are more likely to be negatively impacted by increased exposure to air pollution and noise from cars, trucks, ships, trains, and aircraft, and struck or killed by drivers when walking and biking. These vulnerable communities may have limited access to safe and affordable transportation options to connect residents to jobs, education, healthcare, and recreation. In addition, people of color may experience diminished safety and comfort while walking, biking, driving, or using public transportation as a result of racial discrimination in enforcement.

The Commission vows to create mobility opportunities for all Californians, especially those from underserved communities, to thrive in all aspects of life. The Commission will:

- Work to build and strengthen relationships with community-based organizations, non-profits, advocacy organizations, and other equity experts and practitioners;
- Empower the Commission's Equity Advisory Roundtable and future related efforts to help inform transportation decision making;
- Strengthen understanding of community transportation needs and challenges through the forthcoming Community Listening Sessions;
- Ensure equity, public health, and robust public engagement via our planning and programming guidelines;
- Provide expanded opportunities for Commissioner and staff training related to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
- Feature equity topics and elevate diverse perspectives in public meetings of the Commission.

We uphold our dedication to serve and improve the quality of life for all Californians by continuing to prioritize transportation equity issues and ensuring all experience safe, affordable, and efficient transportation.

EAC Members Review 2022 SB 1 Program Applications with the Commission

- EAC members reviewed project applications in the third funding cycle of all SB 1 Competitive Programs.
- EAC members evaluated responses to the **Community Engagement** criterion in project applications.
- EAC members helped determine which projects were awarded **over \$1.7 billion** available in SB 1 Program funds.



Commission Advisory Opportunities

- Active Transportation Program
- Senate Bill 1 Programs
- State Highway Operations and Protection Program Guidelines
- State and Local Transportation Needs Assessment

Discussion

1. How do the equity statements resonate with you?
2. Where do you hope the EAC makes the most impact?
3. How can the EAC work with the agencies to ensure they're accountable to their equity goals?
4. If we're successful at integrating equity, what would that look like?