

# Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Feedback on the Draft State and Local Transportation Needs Assessment

Interagency Equity Advisory Committee

December 4, 2024



# What is a Transportation Needs Assessment exactly?

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## What it IS...

- ✓ High-level, statewide look at transportation funding over 10 years
- ✓ An estimate of the costs to operate, maintain, and grow the statewide multimodal transportation system over that 10-year period.
- ✓ A simple calculation of the estimated gap that exists between our expected transportation revenues and our ever-growing needs.
- ✓ Potential policy recommendations to address the gap i.e., sustainable revenue sources
- ✓ A “big-picture” document to identify the problem and some policy options for lawmakers.

## What it ISN'T...

- ✗ In-depth representation of all transportation needs
- ✗ Detailed, prioritized project list or an implementation plan\*
- ✗ Representation of the state’s modal priorities
- ✗ Guarantee of policy implementation or a solution in and of itself

\* All implementation-level information received will be referred to the appropriate implementation agencies

# Needs Assessment and EAC Engagement

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- Stakeholder Workgroup Meetings
  - EAC members attended Stakeholder Workgroup Meetings and Policy Recommendations Workshops
- EAC Meetings and Member Briefings
  - November 2023 – Provided an overview on the draft Interim Needs Assessment Report to EAC members at two briefings held in November.
  - August 22, 2024 – Commission staff provided an overview on Senate Bill 1121 and an update on the draft 2025 Needs Assessment

# Needs Assessment and EAC Engagement

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- EAC Meetings and Member Briefings (Continued)
  - October 7, 2024 - Commission staff presented at the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Walkability, Disability, and Complete Streets Subcommittee and received initial feedback from subcommittee members on Accessibility, ADA, and Transit needs and challenges.
  - Commission staff briefed EAC Subcommittee members on the Draft Needs Assessment in more detail on October 16, October 21, November 1, and November 8 and November 13.
  - November 18, 2024 – Commission staff briefed the Walkability, Disability, and Complete Streets Subcommittee

# What We Heard from the EAC

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- Transportation Needs
  - Transportation funding has not been as robust or as adequate to address all the state's needs, especially regarding transit and accessibility
- Accessibility
  - Reduced transit budget means service cuts to transit lines that impacts paratransit services
  - Paratransit must be scheduled at least a day in advance
  - Concerns over the reliability of paratransit service cuts over driver availability
  - On-demand paratransit services can fill some gaps but still has its own challenges, such as accommodating wheelchair riders
  - Services must meet what the people need

# What We Heard from the EAC

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- Discussion on Policy Recommendations Workshop Summary on Road Charge
  - Many riders that utilize paratransit services also utilize fixed-route transit services – consider rethinking how to plan or deploy funding in a more innovative way.
  - The recommendations section presumes there is support on adopting road charge from Equity communities, but that may not be true.
  - Consider using a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) terminology over Road Charge
  - Concern expressed over the financial impact to low-income drivers with Road Charge

# Action: Feedback Incorporated into the Draft Needs Assessment

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- Chapter 8 – Accessibility and Mobility
  - Access to education and employment was incorporated alongside accessing medical and social services
  - Limitations with paratransit for users with accessibility needs
  - Transit and infrastructure cuts impact seniors and persons with disabilities as well as low income and other populations that are dependent on transit.
  - Trip planning is challenging for those with disabilities; it requires at least a day of advance notice, if not more and users with accessibility needs may not be able to use Transportation Network Companies like Lyft or Uber.
    - Limitations on accommodation with those who utilize wheelchairs or power wheelchairs for on-demand rides.

# Provide Feedback to Implementing Agencies/Entities

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- California Transit Association
  - Adapting to the needs of paratransit service riders - meet what the people need
  - Reduced transit budget means service cuts to transit lines that impacts paratransit services
  - Need for more accessibility transportation information/data to be included in the Regional Transportation Plans
- Administration and Legislature (if road charge selected as preferred option)
  - Outreach and Engagement on design of road charge with equity-based organizations and local communities
  - Mindful of terminology used when the State Legislature moves forward with a selected Sustainable Funding Source to potentially replace the fuel tax



# Next Steps

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DATE	MILESTONE
January 2025	Draft Needs Assessment Released for Public Comment Draft Needs Assessment Presented at January 29-30 Commission Meeting
March 2025	Final Needs Assessment Adoption at March 20-21 Commission Meeting Final Needs Assessment Submitted to California Legislature

# Contacts

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# Thank You

Senate Bill 1121 Webpage

<https://catc.ca.gov/programs/sb1121>

