

Memorandum

To: EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EAC Business Meeting:
March 11 - 12, 2025

From: STATE AGENCIES' EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Reference Number: Tab 13, Information

Prepared By: Carolyn Craft Abrams
Senior Advisor on Race and Equity
California Department of Transportation

Published Date: February 28, 2025

Subject: Overview of Committee Scope and 2024 Committee Accomplishments

Summary:

The Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) is a priority for the California Transportation Commission (Commission), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). The Committee is intended to elevate diverse and historically marginalized voices to advise our agencies on how to achieve meaningful outcomes in transportation equity, environmental justice, and equitable economic opportunities, especially as related to transportation planning and programming. In 2022, the Commission, Caltrans, and CalSTA approved the Committee's scope, which states the Committee is to review, advise, and make recommendations to our agencies on transportation related plans, programs, and policies.

The Committee, which held its first meeting in March 2023, concluded its second year in December 2024. Throughout 2024, Committee members worked closely with interagency staff at the Commission, Caltrans, and CalSTA. Members identified priorities for the Committee, the Chair and Vice Chair used this information to provide input during meeting agenda development. Additionally, Committee members established and convened subcommittees, submitted formal recommendations on various matters, and initiated a process for developing a vision, mission, and foundational principles for transportation equity, among several other efforts and initiatives.

Carolyn Craft Abrams, Senior Advisor on Race and Equity within the Caltrans Director's Office of Equity and Tribal Affairs will summarize the Committee scope, highlight the Committee's accomplishments and contributions in 2024, and preview opportunities for Committee involvement in 2025.

Background:**Committee Scope**

The Committee Scope was drafted and approved in 2022 by the Commission, Caltrans, and CalSTA.

The Committee is anticipated to review, advise, and make recommendations on transportation related plans, programs, and policies that include, but are not limited to:

- State transportation planning guidelines
- State transportation funding program guidelines
- State transportation plans
- Quantitative and qualitative metrics for evaluating equity benefits and outcomes
- Incorporation of meaningful community engagement practices into all aspects of transportation work
- Assessment of equitable outcomes in projects
- Assistance with future Racial Equity Action Plans, as applicable
- Development of recommendations regarding best practices to elevate equity in project planning and delivery
- Development of a public participation guidebook

2024 Committee Accomplishments

Throughout 2024, the full Committee convened six times to conduct business. Members participated in program guidelines development and updates, public workshops, interagency staff briefings, and equity updates to the Commission.

The following provides an overview of plans, reports, programs, and guidelines that the Committee provided input and/or recommendations on in 2024.

Statewide Plans

- Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI)
 - CalSTA adopted the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) in 2021, which details how the state recommends investing billions of discretionary transportation dollars annually to aggressively combat and adapt to climate change while supporting public health, safety and equity. The Committee drafted, approved, and submitted a letter to CalSTA, which influenced 14 new actions to further implement the existing CAPTI investment framework.

Policy Report

- Senate Bill 1121 State and Local Transportation Needs Assessment
 - Senate Bill 1121 requires the California Transportation Commission, in consultation with CalSTA and Caltrans, to prepare a needs assessment of the cost to operate, maintain, and provide for the necessary future growth of the state and local transportation system for the next 10 years.

- Recommendations to the SB 1121 report were made via Subcommittee input and individual member briefings with staff.

Program and Guidelines Development

- State Highway Operations and Protection Program Guidelines (SHOPP)
 - The SHOPP is a four-year document of projects that is developed by Caltrans. Once developed, the document is adopted by the Commission after holding at least two public hearings and a finding of consistency with the Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP).
- Caltrans Public Engagement Plan and Portal
 - The Caltrans Engagement Portal offers a new way to engage. Interested parties can get information, find out about upcoming meetings and events, and provide input. (<https://engage.dot.ca.gov/>)
- Equity and Road Charge Statewide Outreach
 - Senate Bill (SB) 339 (Wiener, Statutes of 2021) required the Road Charge Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to develop design recommendations for the Road Usage Charge (RUC) pilot program that tested mileage-based revenue collection as an alternative to the gas tax system.
- Caltrans Equity Index use cases
 - The Transportation Equity Index (EQI) is a spatial screening tool designed to identify transportation-based priority populations at the census block level. The EQI integrates transportation and socioeconomic indicators into three levels of analysis. All levels of analysis reflect low-income status and tribal land status.
- Senate Bill 1 Program Guidelines language update
 - In 2017, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed SB 1 (Beall, 2017), also known as the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, increasing transportation funding and instituting much-needed reforms.
 - The Commission's competitive SB 1 Programs are the [Local Partnership Competitive Program](#), [Solutions for Congested Corridors Program](#), and [Trade Corridor Enhancement Program](#). These programs, created in 2017, support the funding of multimodal transportation projects that promote accessibility, safe travel options, efficient goods movement, and cleaner and more sustainable travel options throughout California.
 - Committee members served in advisory capacity to develop updates to the guidelines, with a primary focus on language within the community engagement narrative section.
- Active Transportation Program Guidelines update

- The Active Transportation Program was created by Senate Bill 99 to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as walking and biking.
- Members of the Committee served in advisory capacity to develop updates to the guidelines.

2024 Committee Meetings Summary

February 13, 2024

Sacramento, California

- Members discussed Committee priority focus areas, the interagency workplan, an expanded leadership structure, the Housing and Transportation Interagency Work Group Anti-Displacement Memorandum, and ex officio membership.
- Members received a presentation from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento-based Civic Thread, the Senate Bill 1 Program team, and the Caltrans Excess Lands team.

April 5, 2024

Via webinar

- Members discussed and approved the formation of four ad hoc subcommittees, including:
 - Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure
 - Safety and Climate
 - Housing, Infrastructure, and Broadband
 - Walkability, Disability, and Complete Streets
- Members received presentations from and information on the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the Caltrans Community Engagement team, Street Design Visualization tools, Greenlining's Beyond Engagement Report, and the Caltrans Excess Lands team.

May 15, 2024

Orange, California

- Members convened with interagency executives and Commissioners to hold an executive meeting of the Committee. Members received presentations from the Dayle McIntosh Center, Santa Ana Active Streets, the Orange County Transportation Authority, Committee member Peggy Martinez on enhanced safety for roundabouts and disability accessibility, and the Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee on the Accessible Transportation Policy Blueprint.
- Members discussed and received updates related to upcoming meetings of the newly formed subcommittees.

August 22, 2024

Via webinar

- Members received presentations from the San Diego-based Mid-City Community Advocacy Network and lead staff for the Senate Bill 1121 Needs Assessment.

- Members discussed and took action to approve recommendations for updates to the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure, received updates from the ad hoc subcommittees on Safety and Climate; Housing, Infrastructure, and Broadband; and Walkability, Disability and Complete Streets, and held an initial discussion of the vision, mission, and key policy principles for transportation equity.

October 24, 2024

Suisun City, California

- Members held an in-person morning workshop focused on the development of the vision, mission, and policy principles for transportation equity, and reported on the discussion and recommendations to the full Committee in the afternoon.
- Members received presentations from members of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Policy Advisory Council, CalSTA staff on the status of the Committee's recommendations for the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure, staff from the California High Speed Rail Authority on project updates, and staff from the California Department of Technology and the California Public Utilities Commission focused on the Middle Mile and Last Mile Broadband Initiatives.
- Members voted to write a letter with recommended language to add to the Senate Bill 1121 State and Local Transportation Needs Assessment. Members were invited to join briefings to review and add detailed recommendations and language.
- Members discussed and approved routing the vision, mission, and policy principles for transportation equity through an existing ad hoc subcommittee.

December 4, 2024

Riverside, California

- Members held a short business meeting in the morning to take action on any outstanding Committee items before closing out the year. Members received an update on the Senate Bill 1121 Needs Assessment to ensure that feedback had been accurately captured from the ad hoc Walkability, Disability, and Complete Streets Subcommittee. Members reviewed and approved the Affordable Connectivity Program draft letter developed by Connie Stewart with input from the ad hoc Housing, Infrastructure, and Broadband Subcommittee. Members also received a presentation on the CTC Strategic Plan update and provided feedback about the process,
- Members convened with interagency executives and Commissioners in the afternoon to hold an executive meeting of the Committee. Members received a presentation from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority about their Community Leadership Committee. Members, executives, and Commissioners also participated in a continuing discussion about the development of the Committee's vision, mission, and foundational principles for transportation equity, including process and next steps for completing this effort.
- The meeting concluded with an update about the 2025 Committee meeting schedule and opportunities identified by the agencies for future Committee involvement.

2025 Committee Opportunities

In 2025, the Committee will welcome new members and elect a new Chair and Vice Chair. Additionally, each agency will offer various opportunities for Committee member involvement. Some of these initial opportunities include:

- Participate in the review and evaluation process for the Commission's Competitive Senate Bill 1 Programs.
- Advise on the development of use cases for the Caltrans Equity Index.
- Provide guidance to support the development of Caltrans community engagement guidelines, tools, and templates.
- Provide guidance on the development of Caltrans policies and plans.
- Engage with Caltrans to understand the current Caltrans System Investment Strategy and participate in future updates.

'Bike Rack' Items

Between 2023 and 2024, Committee members requested additional topics be covered at Committee meetings for informational or educational purposes. Staff maintained a running log of topics (referred to as the 'Bike Rack') and worked with Committee members to address these requests. More information about these 'Bike Rack' items can be found on the following webpage:

- <https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/eac-meetings/2024/2024-12/dec-4-executive-meeting/tab-7-a11y.pdf>

In 2025, members are encouraged to identify topic areas that they would like the Committee to learn more about or engage with. If requested topics are outside the purview of the Committee, staff can often work with partner agencies to arrange educational presentations.

'Bike Rack' items will continue to be compiled and updated at each meeting of the Committee.