

INTERAGENCY EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tab 6 – Draft Vision, Mission, and Foundational Principles for Transportation Equity | *Update and Discussion*

May 14, 2025

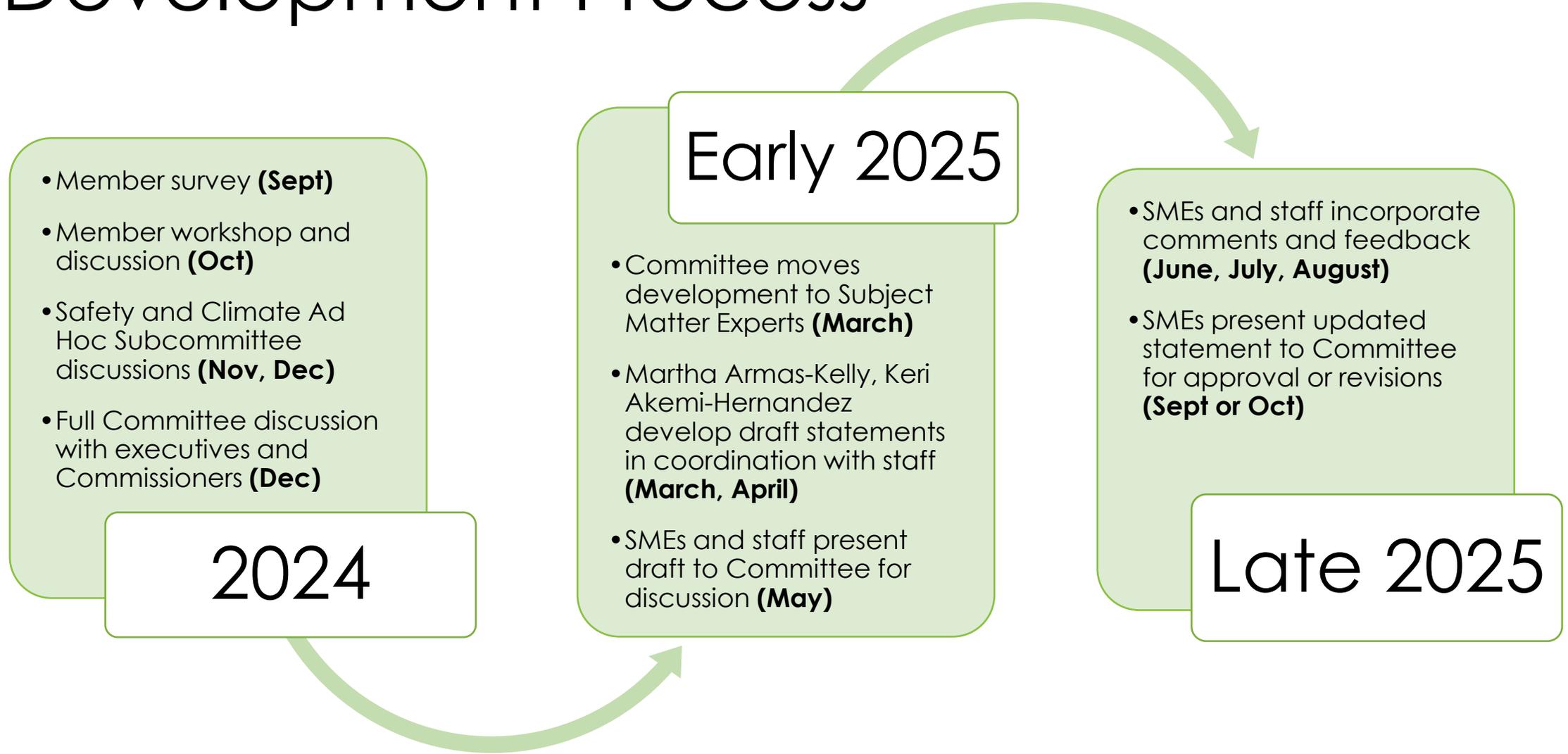


Purpose of the Vision and Mission Statement

- Convey a shared understanding of the Committee's *purpose* and *desired impact*.
- Serve as the basis for Committee activities and advisory opportunities.



Development Process



Committee Foundational Principles



Summary of Themes

- Confront the harms of the past (especially toward Indigenous and marginalized groups)
- Call for equitable and inclusive transportation infrastructure
- Center community voices and lived experiences
- Embrace environmental justice and sustainability
- Aim for a collaborative, just, and visionary transportation future

Definitions

Right Relation

- In indigenous context, signifies a way of being grounded in respectful reciprocity and relationality with all of creation, including humans, non-human relatives, and the land.
- About practicing deep listening, self-reflexivity, creating space for marginalized voices, and acting with responsibility and accountability.

Ecojustice

- Refers to the interconnectedness of environmental sustainability and social justice, emphasizing the need to protect the environment while ensuring fairness and equity for all

Additional Resources:

<https://nahc.ca.gov/>

<https://calepa.ca.gov/tribal/resources/>

<https://lci.ca.gov/ceqa/tribal/>

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/racial-justice/indigenous-justice>



Draft Committee Foundational Principles



Transportation has long been a key driver of progress, opportunity, and connection across California. While our infrastructure has enabled economic growth and vibrant communities, it has also caused significant harm—often developed without consideration for the people and ecosystems it disrupted. Historical practices, including Indigenous displacement, redlining, segregation, and the creation of sundown towns, denied many communities safe and equitable access to transportation, resources, and opportunity.

Before California became a state in 1850, this land was home to over 100 distinct sovereign Indigenous nations whose descendants still live here today. Many modern roads follow trails Indigenous communities have used since time immemorial. As cities expanded, these communities were forcibly relocated to Rancherias or faced outright violence and genocide. This legacy of harm continues to impact Black, Indigenous, and people of color, as well as people with disabilities, low-income communities, farmworkers, and others facing systemic barriers to mobility and opportunity.

In response, the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee seeks to support the Commission, Caltrans, and CalSTA, in partnership with community leaders, to build a more just, inclusive, and sustainable transportation future. We are committed to reducing systemic harms—including human trafficking, environmental degradation, and unequal access to vital resources like healthcare, education, and economic opportunity—by actively centering the voices of those most impacted.



Draft Committee Foundational Principles (continued)



We are guided by a deep respect for the land and the communities who call it home. Our approach integrates Indigenous values such as being in right relation with the land, fostering ecojustice, and addressing the realities of climate change through renewable energy solutions and wildlife-conscious planning. We acknowledge our California farmworkers who are essential to our state's agricultural success and how vital our transportation methods are to providing local resources and transporting them worldwide.

This also means we are dedicated to incorporating the principles of mobility justice to make transportation accessible to all, provide guidance on language access and needed routes, and support the expansion of transportation services and programs to improve access. We are especially focused on ensuring that disability justice is at the core of our work by supporting the design of systems that address the full spectrum of challenges people with disabilities may encounter.

At the heart of this initiative is a bold, imaginative vision: one that reimagines transportation as a force for equity, connection, and environmental stewardship. Together, through community collaboration, cultural responsiveness, and sustainable innovation, we can build a future where transportation systems truly serve all Californians.



Common Themes: Draft Committee Vision Statement



Equity & Inclusion
Mobility & Connectivity
Cultural Responsiveness
Environmental Commitment
Systemic Change
Partnership & Collaboration





Draft Committee Vision Statement

Our vision is a California where transportation systems serve all people equitably, reflect the rich diversity of our communities, and foster mobility, sustainability, and opportunity for generations to come.

We envision a connected, efficient, and accessible network that responds to the needs of underserved populations, people with disabilities, and communities historically harmed by systemic inequities.

Rooted in the understanding of our interconnected relationship with the land, we are committed to supporting the reduction of environmental harm, integration of renewable energy, and the advancement of ecological and environmental justice throughout our transportation system — including the protection of wildlife corridors and natural resources.

Guided by community partnerships, disability justice, cultural responsiveness, and climate resilience, we strive to transform our transportation infrastructure into a just, inclusive, and forward-thinking system that enhances quality of life and nurtures the well-being of all Californians.

Summary of Themes: Committee Mission Statement



Access & Mobility
Environmental Focus
Community-Centered
Accessibility & Inclusion



Draft Committee Mission Statement

The mission of the Equity Advisory Committee is to support interagency efforts to create an equitable, sustainable, and inclusive transportation system that ensures safe access for all and reflects the needs, cultures, and voices of all communities.

We are committed to transforming mobility through innovation, more reliable resources, community-informed recommendations and analyses that prioritize accessibility, environmental responsibility, and ecological and environmental justice.

By elevating lived experiences and honoring every person's right to move safely, with love and dignity, we aim to reduce systemic harm and to offer impactful solutions that will guide responsive change in California's transportation to sustain Californians for the future.

Discussion

