

# Memorandum

**To:** EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**EAC Executive Meeting:**  
May 14, 2025

**From:** STATE AGENCIES' EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

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**Subject:** Update and Discussion on Draft Vision, Mission, and Foundational Principles for Transportation Equity

## **Summary:**

Members of the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) will provide feedback on the draft Committee vision and mission statement, including foundational principles and objectives for improving equitable outcomes in transportation.

The vision and mission statement seeks to convey a shared understanding of the Committee's purpose and desired impact. The vision, mission, and foundational principles for the Committee can serve as the basis for activities, policy, and advisory recommendations identified by the Committee for potential implementation within the Committee scope for each agency.

In response to Committee direction at the March 2025 meeting, Chair Martha Armas-Kelly and member Keri Akemi-Hernandez, in collaboration with Committee staff, spent March and April 2025 developing the draft vision and mission statement for the Committee, including foundational principles and objectives for improving equitable outcomes in transportation.

The development of the draft statement builds upon work conducted by the Committee in 2024, including surveys, a focused workshop, and discussions through the Safety and Climate ad hoc Subcommittee.

The draft Committee vision and mission statement is below. Committee members are requested to provide feedback on the vision and mission statement as well as take public input on the vision and mission statement at the May 2025 meeting.

*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.

*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.

*Draft Committee Policy 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, 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.

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.