

Memorandum

To: EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EAC Business Meeting:
September 5, 2025

From: STATE AGENCIES' EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Reference Number: Tab 5, Information

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

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Subject: Interagency Updates

Summary

Interagency staff will share brief verbal updates about past and upcoming advisory opportunities for Committee members.

Background

The Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) was established in 2022 and 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 agencies on how to achieve meaningful outcomes in transportation equity, environmental justice, and equitable economic opportunities, especially as related to transportation planning and programming.

Interagency Updates

1) Application Period for the 2026 – 2028 Term of the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Opens in September 2025

The Commission, Caltrans and CalSTA are pleased to announce the application period for those interested in serving as a member of the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee

(serving a two-year term beginning in 2026) will be open from September 8 – October 19, 2025.

The Committee is intended to elevate diverse and historically marginalized voices to advise our three agencies on how to achieve meaningful outcomes in transportation equity, environmental justice, and more. Interested applicants must reside in California and meet one of the following criteria to be considered:

- Clearly demonstrate a history of equity-centered personal or professional experience or community leadership.
- Be actively engaged in transportation equity policy, programming, advocacy, or related fields such as health, air quality, climate, housing justice, or community and/or socio-economic development.

The online application portal will be open to the public beginning Monday, September 8, 2025 at 12:00 am, and close Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 11:59 pm. Interested individuals can apply online at: <https://forms.office.com/g/qJ4QktySmr> beginning September 8.

Visit the Commission website to learn more about the Equity Advisory Committee and its activities: catc.ca.gov/programs/interagency-equity-advisory-committee

2) Advisory Opportunities

Since its official launch in March 2023, members of the Committee have supported and advised on numerous interagency initiatives outlined in the Committee scope and work plan. These efforts continue to shape programs, policies, and processes for the Commission, Caltrans, and CalSTA. The following reflects a summary of advisory opportunities the Committee participated in during the Spring and Summer of 2025, as well as upcoming advisory opportunities.

Commission

Vehicle Weight Safety Study Task Force

- In Fall 2025, Commission staff will present an update to Committee members summarizing the Task Force findings. Commission staff will seek Committee member feedback, likely in early 2026, when drafting the Commission's report to the Legislature.

Assembly Bill 744

- In August, Commission staff provided the Data Implementation Subcommittee with an update on the Final Proposal developed in response to Assembly Bill (AB) 744. This Proposal presents a framework to enhance statewide collaboration on transportation data, modeling, and analytic tools that support decision-making, interagency coordination, and alignment with state transportation, housing, and climate goals. It fulfills the requirements established in AB 744 (Carrillo, Chapter 872, Statutes of 2023), which directs the Commission to assess existing transportation data and modeling practices and recommend strategies to improve access to high-quality data,

modeling, and analytic software tools that support planning, and coordination across agencies.

- This final proposal recommends a hybrid implementation strategy that combines centralized procurement of transportation data platforms with direct funding to state, regional, and local agencies for their own procurement needs. This flexible approach is designed to enhance statewide access to high-quality data and tools while allowing agencies to tailor solutions to their specific needs. These resources will support the state's sustainable transportation, congestion management, affordable housing, efficient land use, air quality, economic, and climate change strategies and goals.
- If the Commission's proposal receives legislative funding, staff will engage the Data Implementation Subcommittee in 2026 to help shape the next phase of implementation planning.

Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan Guidelines

- At the August 2025 Commission meeting, staff provided an information update on the Commission's Draft Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan Guidelines (Guidelines) which are in the process of being updated. These guidelines are a resource for agencies preparing Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plans (CMCP). A project must be part of a CMCP to compete in the SB 1 Solutions for Congested Corridors Program. The update is intended to produce a more streamlined document that aligns with the current Solutions for Congested Corridors Program Guidelines and provides up-to-date planning resources. The Guidelines Update expands on equity by encouraging equitable outcomes and robust engagement by planning partners with historically impacted communities and marginalized groups. The Commission's Senate Bill 1 Transportation Equity Supplement, which the Committee adopted in 2024 after the incorporation of Committee feedback, is referenced in the guidelines to provide additional guidance on best practices to enhance equitable outcomes in the transportation planning process. In addition to updating policy and technical references, the Draft Guidelines also support implementation of Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure 2.0 ([CAPTI](#)) action S2.4.
- EAC members were asked to provide written comments by August 15th and staff held a series of informational briefings to provide additional context to EAC members on the CMCP Guidelines. Staff shared feedback received on the guidelines to the Transportation Planning Subcommittee on August 25. Draft guidelines will be presented at the October Commission meeting with final adoption anticipated in December 2025. The Guidelines will apply to comprehensive corridor plans initiated or updated after final adoption.

Senate Bill 1 Funding Program Awards

- In Spring 2025, participating Committee members completed their review of the community engagement narratives in project applications for the Commission's Senate Bill 1 Competitive Programs' fourth funding cycle. Committee member input influenced funding award recommendations in the fourth SB 1 funding cycle, which awarded over \$1.4 billion to transportation projects at the June 2025 Commission Meeting.

State Transportation Improvement Program Guidelines

- Committee members were invited to review the 2026 Draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Guidelines and provide feedback to staff via member briefings throughout the month of May 2025. Member feedback resulted in the addition of a glossary of terms in the updated guidelines.

Caltrans

Statewide Community Engagement Playbook

- The Committee received a presentation from Caltrans staff on the Statewide Community Engagement Playbook (Playbook) during the May 14th Executive Committee meeting. The Statewide Playbook is an action item from the 2021 Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI). The Statewide Playbook will document best practices for Caltrans's planning and project development work to support institutionalizing meaningful community engagement practices within the department. Based on the Statewide Playbook, Caltrans Districts will develop District specific Community Engagement Playbooks to address the unique needs and organization of their District.
- The Community Engagement Policies and Practices Subcommittee received a presentation on the Playbook at the June 2025 subcommittee meeting and a presentation specifically focused on Chapter 4 of the Playbook at the August 2025 subcommittee meeting. Subcommittee members were asked to provide feedback on Chapter 4 to inform the final version of the Playbook, anticipated for completion in the spring of 2026.

Caltrans staff anticipate returning to the full Committee in the spring of 2026 to review the feedback received from Committee members and other external partners and discuss what feedback was incorporated into the final Playbook.

Equity Index Use Case Development

- The Data Implementation Subcommittee received an introductory presentation on the Caltrans Equity Index (EQI) at the June 2025 subcommittee meeting and a technical presentation on the EQI at the August 2025 subcommittee meeting.
- Subcommittee members have been asked to inform the implementation of the EQI, including the development and review of both internal and external use cases. The EQI is expected to improve Caltrans' analysis of project impacts and improve project

planning, development, and design. The tool can be applied externally to planning and decision-making processes for other transportation agencies and community partners.

Director's Policy on Public Transit

- The Transportation Planning and Program Guidance Subcommittee received a presentation at the August 2025 subcommittee meeting on the Director's Policy on Public Transit (Transit Policy) and future opportunities for members to provide input on the implementation plan for the Transit Policy.
- The Transit Policy will provide high-level, long-range direction to Caltrans on Caltrans' transit-related activities including improvements to transit facilities on the State Highway System, enhanced state collaboration in transit planning, and modernization of transit data and technology.

Federal Transit Administration 5310 – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 – Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program is intended to improve the mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding the transportation options available to meet this specialized transportation need. Caltrans released the FTA 5310 “Call for Projects” on June 30, 2025. Eligible projects include ADA-accessible vehicles, related support equipment, Operating Assistance, and Mobility Management funding.
- Caltrans assembles a State Review Committee (SRC) consisting of advocates, users of 5310 services, and other interested parties. Caltrans is extending an invitation to Committee members to participate in the SRC for the 2025 grant cycle. This would consist of a virtual information/training meeting anticipated in mid-September. Caltrans estimates this commitment will involve 6-8 hours of work depending on the number of applications received. The scoring is expected to take place in late September, and reviewers will be given roughly two weeks to complete their review.

CalSTA

Transit Transformation Task Force (TTTF, or Task Force)

At its June 2025 meeting, the Committee's Transportation Planning & Program Guidance Subcommittee received a briefing and provided comments on the first set of draft recommendations related to the Task Force's Guiding Principles to:

- Boost the speed, frequency, and reliability of transit services
- Increase options for living, working, and learning near high-quality transit routes
- Deliver an exceptional customer experience with a strong focus on safety for all
- Ensure transit is operationally and financially sustainable with consistent investment

Subcommittee members primarily provided comments on accessible transportation options, such as paratransit, noting the cost to operate paratransit and the need to ensure sufficient

input from end users of paratransit services. Subcommittee members also emphasized the need for the final TTTF report to consider trends in our aging population as an equity issue.

Senate Bill (SB) 125 established and convened the TTTF in 2024 to establish a structured, coordinated process for engagement of all parties, to develop policy recommendations, to grow transit ridership, and improve the transit experience for all users of those services. Statutorily, the TTTF includes members representing transit operators, both small and large operating in urban and rural jurisdictions, Caltrans, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, regional transportation planning agencies, transportation advocacy organizations with expertise in public transit, labor organizations, academic institutions, the Senate Committee on Transportation, the Assembly Committee on Transportation, and other stakeholders.

The legislation requires CalSTA, in consultation with the TTTF, to prepare and submit a report of findings and policy recommendations to the Legislature. This report includes identifying where statutory changes would be needed to implement recommendations based on the task force's efforts, and the financial and technical feasibility of those recommendations. The final report will be submitted to the Legislature in October 2025.

The TTTF is finalizing draft recommendations in August and September 2025.

The TTTF met on August 1, 2025 to discuss the first set of recommendations, on August 26 for the second set of draft recommendations related to land use, service & safety, and the final set of draft recommendations will be discussed on September 30, 2025 in the Sacramento Area Council of Governments board room.

Additional information on the Task Force, agendas, and related documents can be found here:

[SB 125 Transit Program | CalSTA - https://calsta.ca.gov/subject-areas/sb125-transit-program](https://calsta.ca.gov/subject-areas/sb125-transit-program)

3) May Meeting Recap

In addition to the Meeting Minutes found in Book Item 4, the Committee received a summary of the May 2025 Committee business and executive meeting, found in Attachment A.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: May 2025 Equity Advisory Committee Business and Executive Meeting Recap Sent to Members
- Attachment B: "Crosswalk": Update of Member Requested Information, Discussion, and Policy Development Activities

ATTACHMENT A**May 2025 Equity Advisory Committee Business and Executive Meeting Recap****Business Meeting Highlights**

The meeting began with land acknowledgements from Chair Martha Armas-Kelly, Vice Chair Ana Gonzalez, and Member Keri Akemi-Hernandez. Members also recognized Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Awareness Month, reflecting on the importance of honoring Indigenous communities in transportation equity.

2025 Calendar Updates:

- Business meetings added: **May 14** and **December 3**
- **July 31** meeting removed to allow more time for subcommittee work over the summer

Ad Hoc Subcommittees Approved:

The Committee unanimously approved the formation of three new subcommittees:

- 1. Community Engagement Policies & Practices**
Focus: the agencies' community engagement policies and practices. The subcommittee could undertake the following opportunities to provide advisory support in 2025: Caltrans Statewide Community Engagement Playbook, Caltrans Director's Policy on External Engagement, Caltrans Race and Equity Action Plan, and the Caltrans District Community Advisory Committee Framework.
- 2. Transportation Planning & Program Guidelines**
Focus: the agencies' long-range planning efforts. The subcommittee could undertake the following opportunities to provide advisory support in 2025: California Transportation Plan, Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure 2.0 implementation, Caltrans Director's Policy on Public Transit, the Master Plan for Aging, and the draft Transit Transformation Task Force report.
- 3. Data Implementation**
Focus: the agencies' data-driven decision-making tools and practices which support equitable investments in transportation infrastructure and programs. The subcommittee could undertake the following opportunities to provide advisory support in 2025: Caltrans Equity Index Use Case Development and the State Highway System Management Plan.

All members are welcome to attend subcommittee meetings. Formal members have voting privileges; Chair Armas-Kelly will serve as a non-voting ex officio member on all subcommittees.

Preliminary Subcommittee Membership

Member	Ad Hoc Subcommittee(s)
Abimael Chavez-Hernandez	Community Engagement, Data Implementation
Ana Gonzalez	Community Engagement, Transportation Planning
Andres Ramirez	Community Engagement, Transportation Planning
Florence Simon	Data Implementation

Howard Wong	Transportation Planning
Keri Akemi-Hernandez	All three
Lisa Marie Alvarado	Community Engagement, Transportation Planning
Chair Martha Armas-Kelly	All three (focus on Community Engagement, Data Implementation)
Michelle Rousey	Community Engagement, Transportation Planning, possibly Data
Naomi Iwasaki	Data Implementation
Peggy Martinez	Transportation Planning
Randy Torres-Van Vleck	Community Engagement, Transportation Planning

Subcommittee meetings will begin this summer. Staff will follow up to confirm membership and scheduling.

Executive Meeting Highlights

CalSTA Secretary Omishakin opened the session by reaffirming the Committee's vital role in shaping equity outcomes statewide. He previewed upcoming state budget priorities and emphasized the agency's "Core Four" strategic goals.

Commission Chair Grisby and Commissioners Tiffany and Falcon acknowledged the Committee's input on STIP, SB1, and the AB 251 task force (Vehicle Weight Safety Study). Regional and agency partners shared equity-centered work happening on the ground.

Vision, Mission & Foundational Principles Discussion

Chair Armas-Kelly and Member Akemi-Hernandez presented the draft vision, mission, and foundational principles statement, which reflects input from surveys, past meetings, and SME leadership.

Committee members and agency staff provided thoughtful feedback, including:

- Emphasis on disability justice, economic opportunity, and rural access
- Inclusion of community safety, empowerment, and geographic diversity
- Ensuring the statement drives implementation and evaluation

A revised version will be shared for adoption at the September 5 business meeting.

Community Engagement Initiatives Update and Discussion

Caltrans shared upcoming tools and guidance:

- Director's Policy on External Engagement
- Statewide Community Engagement Playbook
- Public Engagement Portal

Members discussed defining success metrics, building support for community-based organizations, and embedding engagement earlier in project lifecycles. The Committee will continue to advise on these efforts through the Community Engagement subcommittee.

Next Steps & Action Items

- **Subcommittees** will begin meeting this summer. Staff will follow up with schedules and logistics.

- **Vision, mission, and principles statement** will be finalized over the summer and presented for adoption at the **September 5, 2025** business meeting.
- **Meeting materials for September 5** will be posted and emailed 10 days in advance.
- **Ongoing updates** on agency engagement efforts and equity initiatives will be shared via email.

ATTACHMENT B:

“Crosswalk”: Update of Member Requested Information, Discussion, and Policy Development Activities

Item	Type	Agency	Advisory Format	Date Introduced	Date Completed	Status	Notes
1 SB 1	Advisory opportunity	CTC	SMEs	March 2025	June 2025	Members supported the evaluation of the community engagement narrative sections of all 2025 SB 1 program funding applications. Awardees announced at the June 2025 CTC meeting. Members will be asked to support upcoming SB 1 guidelines update process.	
2 CAPTI 2.0	Advisory opportunity	CalSTA	Subcommittee	March 2025		Members provided recommendations for updates to CAPTI 2.0 in 2024. Ongoing status updates will be provided by staff.	
3 Transit Transformation Task Force	Advisory opportunity	CalSTA	Subcommittee	March 2025	June 2025	Members received a presentation at the Transportation Planning and Program Guidance (TPPG) Subcommittee meeting in June 2025.	
4 FTA 5310 - Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and People with Disabilities Program	Advisory opportunity	Caltrans	SMEs	March 2025		Members are being asked to serve on the State Review Committee to support the assessment of funding applications.	
5 Caltrans Director's Policy on External Engagement	Advisory opportunity	Caltrans	Subcommittee	March 2025		Engagement with planned with the Community Engagement Policies and Practices Subcommittee for 2026.	
6 Caltrans Statewide Community Engagement Playbook	Advisory opportunity	Caltrans	Subcommittee	March 2025		Informational presentation provided at the May 2025 Committee meeting. Engagement is underway with the Community Engagement Policies and Practices Subcommittee. Presentation and discussion held during the June and August 2025 subcommittee meetings. Engagement will continue into 2026.	
7 Caltrans Director's Policy on Public Transit	Advisory opportunity	Caltrans	Subcommittee	March 2025		Presentation on the Director's Transit Policy was provided to the Transportation Planning and Program Guidance Subcommittee in August 2025. A discussion is planned with the subcommittee members in November to provide input on the implementation plan for the policy.	
8 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)	Advisory opportunity	CTC	SMEs	March 2025	June 2025	Members were invited to participate in staff briefings and provide recommendations to guidelines in Spring 2025. A glossary of terms was added based on recommendations.	
9 Equity Index (EQI) Use Case Development	Advisory opportunity	Caltrans	Subcommittee	March 2025		Engagement is underway with the Data Implementation Subcommittee. Presentation and discussion on the tool was provided at the June and August 2025 subcommittee meetings. Engagement will continue into 2026.	
10 Caltrans People and Community First Action Plan	Advisory opportunity	Caltrans	Subcommittee	March 2025		Engagement is planned with the Committee for feedback.	
11 Caltrans District EAC Framework	Advisory opportunity	Caltrans	Subcommittee	March 2025		Engagement will began in 2026 under the Caltrans Equity and Engagement Policy Advisor.	
12 California Transportation Plan	Advisory opportunity	Caltrans	Subcommittee			Engagement is planned with the Transportation Planning and Program Guidance Subcommittee.	

13	Mission and Vision Statement	Advisory opportunity	Interagency	SMEs	March 2025		SMEs will share the draft statement for Committee approval at the September 2025 meeting.	
14	AB 744	Advisory opportunity	CTC	Subcommittee	July 2025	August 2025	Members will receive an informational presentation and timeline update at August 2025 Data Implementation (DI) Subcommittee	
15	Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan	Advisory opportunity	CTC	Subcommittee	July 2025	August 2025	Members received an informational presentation and timeline update at the Transportation Planning and Program Guidance (TPPG) Subcommittee meeting in August 2025.	
16	IJIA Reauthorization	Informational presentation	CalSTA	Informational presentation	March 2025		Ongoing updates from staff	Ongoing
17	Port and Freight Infrastructure	Informational presentation	CalSTA	Informational presentation	March 2025		Scheduled for December 2025	
18	Othoring and Belonging Institute	Informational presentation	n/a	Informational presentation	March 2025		Potential informational presentation	Outside of Committee Scope
19	CARB EJAC	Informational presentation	n/a	Other	March 2025		Potential reception (post-EAC meeting)	Outside of Committee Scope
20	CPUC DACAG	Informational presentation	n/a	Other	March 2025		Potential reception (post-EAC meeting)	Outside of Committee Scope
21	Walkability and accessibility	Member request	Interagency	Other	March 2025		Included as a priority in the Mission & Vision statement, Caltrans EQI, SB 1, FTA 5310, SB 1121, Caltrans Community Engagement Playbook.	
22	Transportation funding and federal updates	Member request	CalSTA	Informational presentation	March 2025		Ongoing updates provided by staff.	
23	Comprehensive roadmap of transportation planning documents and timelines.	Member request	Caltrans	Other	March 2024	March 2025	Information shared during member briefings at the start of the year. Document included in member reference materials from Caltrans.	
24	California Master Plan for Aging	Member request	CalSTA	Informational presentation	March 2025			
25	Safety	Member request	CalSTA	Other	March 2025		Safe Systems approach included in Mission & Vision statement. Possible future presentation from CalSTA.	
26	Climate resiliency	Member request	CalSTA	Other	March 2025		Included as a priority in the Mission & Vision, Caltrans EQI, SB 1, FTA 5310, SB 1121, Caltrans Community Engagement Playbook.	
27	High Speed Rail Update	Member request	n/a	Informational presentation	March 2024	October 2024	External presentation provided to the Committee at the October 2024 meeting.	Outside of Committee Scope
28	State funding / bill updates	Member request	Caltrans	Informational presentation	March 2025		Scheduled for October 2025.	
29	Air quality and transportation (incl. mitigation for air quality impacts from construction)	Member request	Caltrans	Informational presentation	July 2025		Exploring possibility of an informational presentation.	
30	Rail electrification	Member request	CTC	Informational presentation		June 2025	Presented at the June 2025 CTC Meeting. Upcoming CTC staff briefing planned with Committee Vice Chair.	CTC SB1 funding for electrification projects
31	Complete Streets	Member request	Caltrans	Informational presentation	March 2025		Presenting at October 2025 Committee meeting.	
32	AB 52 (Aguiar-Curry, 2025)	Member request	n/a	Other	March 2025			Outside of Committee scope
33	DEI Changes in Transportation	Member request	CalSTA	Informational presentation	March 2025		Ongoing updates provided by staff.	
34	Needs Assessment	Member request	CTC	Subcommittee	March 2025	May 2025	Staff included Committee member recommendations in the report to the Legislature.	Specific to accessible transportation sections
35	California Freight Mobility Plan	Advisory opportunity	Caltrans	Committee	August 2025		Presentation planned for the October 2025 Committee meeting. Engagement will continue into 2026.	