

Caltrans Director's Transit Policy



August 25, 2025

Equity Advisory Committee Meeting

What is a Caltrans Director's Policy?

- Provides Department-wide direction for Caltrans strategy and activities.
- High-level and long-range.
- Signed by the Director.

California Department of Transportation	
<i>Director's Policy</i>	
Effective Date:	December 7, 2021
Supersedes:	DD-64-R2 (10/16/2014)
Responsible Programs:	Finance Maintenance & Operations Planning and Modal Programs Project Delivery Safety Programs Sustainability
Title	Complete Streets
Policy	<p>The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) recognizes that walking, biking, transit, and passenger rail are integral to our vision of delivering a brighter future for all through a world-class transportation network. Additionally, Caltrans recognizes that streets are not only used for transportation but are also valuable community spaces.</p> <p>Accordingly, in locations with current and/or future pedestrian, bicycle, or transit needs, all transportation projects funded or overseen by Caltrans will provide comfortable, convenient, and connected complete streets facilities for people walking, biking, and taking transit or passenger rail unless an exception is documented and approved.</p> <p>When decisions are made not to include complete streets elements in capital and maintenance projects, the justification will be documented with final approval by the responsible District Director.</p> <p>Opportunities for complete streets exist in all phases of project development from planning and design to construction, operations, and maintenance. Complete streets projects should prioritize underserved communities that have been historically harmed and segmented by the transportation network and should serve people of all ages and abilities. Furthermore, Caltrans commits to removing unnecessary policy and procedural barriers and partnering with communities and agencies to ensure projects on local and state transportation systems improve the connectivity to existing and planned pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities, and accessibility to existing and planned destinations, where possible.</p>

Intended Results of Policy

Caltrans aims to support transit on the State Highway System. It will:

- Construct and improve transit priority facilities on SHS.
- Establish internal processes to resolve encroachment permit application challenges for transit priority facilities.
- Partner with planning and transit agencies on plans and projects that impact transit on the SHS.
- Improve data and technology to support transit connectivity and ease-of-use.
- Incorporate cost of transit activities into existing programs.

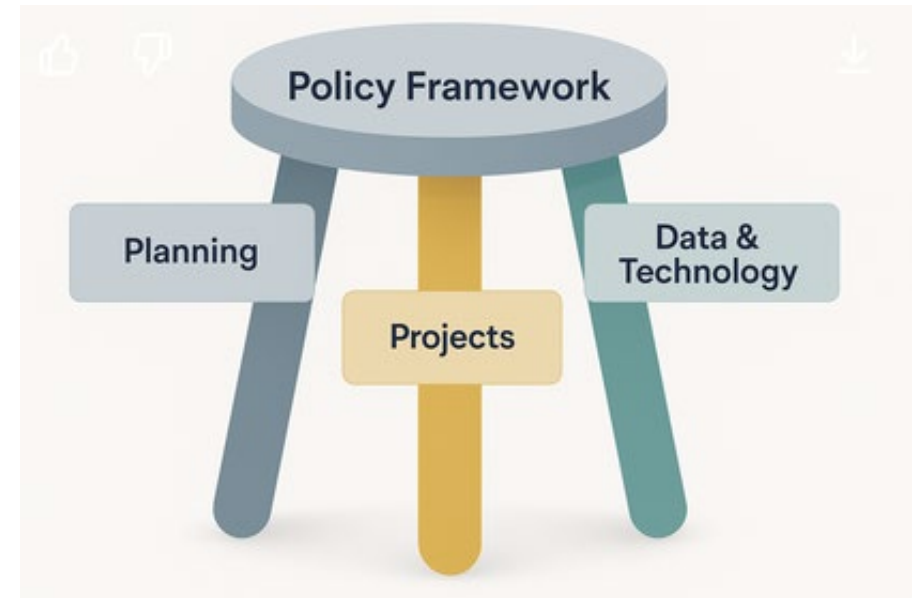
Senate Bill 960 – Transit Priority

- SB 960 requires Caltrans to include complete streets and transit assets, including transit priority facilities, in state highway planning.
- This bill requires Caltrans on or before January 1, 2026, to develop and adopt a transit policy to guide the implementation of transit priority facilities and transit stops on the State Highway System.

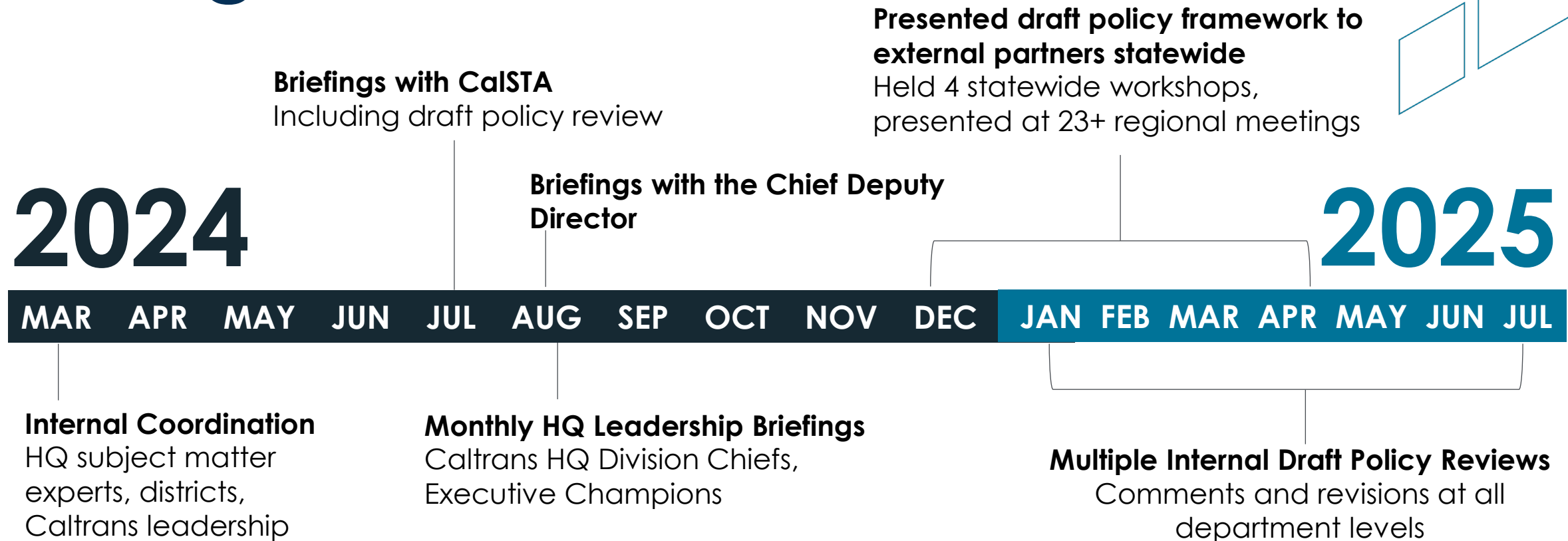
The screenshot shows the California Legislative Information website for Senate Bill 960. The page title is "SB-960 Transportation: planning: complete streets facilities: transit priority facilities. (2023-2024)". The bill is categorized as "Text" and includes links for "Votes", "History", "Bill Analysis", "Today's Law As Amended", "Compare Versions", "Status", and "Comments to Author". The bill is titled "Senate Bill No. 960" and "CHAPTER 630". The description states: "An act to amend Sections 14526.4 and 14526.6 of, and to add Section 14526.8 to, the Government Code, and to amend Sections 164.6 and 671.5 of, and to add Section 149.20 to, the Streets and Highways Code, relating to transportation." The bill was approved by the Governor on September 27, 2024, and filed with the Secretary of State on September 27, 2024. The page also includes a "LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST" section.

What's at the core of this policy?

- **Planning:** Develop, update, and implement plans to support transit-priority infrastructure on the SHS
- **Projects:** Focuses on collaborating with external partners and integrating transit-supportive infrastructure where feasible.
- **Data and Technology:** Establish versatile targets for transit service levels, facilities, infrastructure, technology, and data



Progress To-Date



Next Steps – Policy Development



Policy Implementation Plan

Policy Implementation Plan

PLANNING

- Local, Regional, and Transit Agency Coordination
- Planning Documents – District and Statewide Transit Plans
- Reducing Transit Delay

PROJECTS

- Project Intake and Evaluation Process
- Project Scoping
- Transit Facility Guidance
- Maintenance of Transit Facilities

DATA

- Develop and Maintain Open Transit Data Product Portfolio
- Adopt guidance that defines transit performance measures

Initial Framework

DOTP is working with Asset Management, Traffic Operations, Maintenance, DDS, and SB 960 Lead to come to agreement on Transit Asset Topics. These include:

- **What Transit Assets will Caltrans own?**
- **What Transit Assets will Caltrans build?**
- **Clear guidance on who will maintain Transit Assets on the SHS.**
- **Will Caltrans create minimum standards of Transit Assets like signage and bus stops?**



Planning Documents

State Transit Plan (SHS & Beyond)

- Refers to the high-level transit policy
- Captures SB 960 implementation plan transit actions (public engagement, project intake, design guidance, TSMO, real-time data, TAMP)
- Refers to the CalSTA transit system project

District Transit Plans (SHS only)

- Presents an inventory of existing transit assets
- Identifies recommended improvements and Caltrans priorities in the district

Transit Implementation Plan (SHS & Beyond)

- Relatively high-level steps including SB 960 Transit Actions
- Refers to the State Transit Plan, District Transit Plans, and CalSTA plan (if timing aligns)



Next Steps – Policy Implementation Plan



Questions?

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