

Caltrans Transportation Equity Index (EQI)

EAC Data Implementation Subcommittee
November 17, 2025



Director's Office of
Equity & Tribal Affairs (ETA)

Director's Office of
Sustainability





Agenda

01

Introduction

02

Current Use Cases:

- CSIS
- TPSIS
- SB 960
- EQI Use Cases Under Development/Exploration

03

Questions for the Subcommittee

04

Q&A

Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS)

- CSIS is an investment framework meant to analyze a project's alignment to the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure.
- The CSIS includes eleven CAPTI-alignment metrics, all of which relate to a specific CAPTI principles. Two of these metrics are derived from EQI:
 - **Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Access to Destinations:** Percent change in access to jobs and non-work destinations for low-income individuals.
 - **DAC Traffic Impacts:** Change in DAC-weighted truck-weighted traffic exposure.
- These metrics provide a more-precise estimate of project impact, but are more difficult to run
- They are used to prioritize Caltrans' project nominations to discretionary funding sources.



EQI Analytical Tool

- The ***draft*** [EQI Analytical Tool](#) is intended to provide project-level EQI analysis, without the effort or level of project detail required to utilize the CSIS metrics.
- The tool methodology is as follows:
 1. Basic project information (location and project type) is entered into a simple web application.
 2. GIS analysis is used to calculate EQI summary statistics for a fixed buffer around the project location.
 3. These summary statistics are compared to the EQI thresholds to determine the what baseline issues are present.
 4. A high-level assessment is conducted to determine what impact (if any) the project component would have on the identified EQI issues.

EQI Project Analysis Mapping Application

Map Instructions

Project Name
Project 1

Component Name
Component 1

Select a project component type:
Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure

Select a project component subtype:
Bikeway Class II

Save Project Component
Generate Project Report

Component 1
Spatial analysis completed



Select Project Component >>> **Component 1**

Category	Indicator	Result	Description	Baseline Conditions	Expected Project Impact
Demographic Overlay	Surrounding Population	1,982	There are 1,982 people living within 500 feet of this project component.		
	Median Household Income	\$54,484	The population-weighted median household income in the project area is \$54,484. The minimum median household income in the project area is \$40,270. The maximum median household income in the project area is \$87,246.		
	Demographic Overlay	Yes	The project component intersects the EQI's Demographic Overlay, meaning that it is located in a low-income community (per the AB-1550 definition) and/or a tribal land area.		↑
Traffic Exposure	Traffic Exposure Screen	Yes	The project component intersects the EQI's Traffic Exposure Screen, meaning that it is located in an area that is low-income and highly-burdened by either traffic proximity and volume and/or crash exposure.	✗	
	Traffic Proximity and Volume	0.75	The project component is located in an area with a population-weighted traffic proximity and volume percentile of .75, meaning that the traffic burden in the project area is greater than 75% of all Census blocks in the state. The minimum traffic proximity and volume percentile in the project area is .48 and the maximum is .83.	✗	→
	Crash Exposure	0.81	The project component is located in an area with a population-weighted traffic exposure percentile of .81, meaning that the crash exposure in the project area is greater than 81% of all Census blocks in the state. The minimum crash exposure percentile in the project area is .29 and the maximum is .99.	✗	↑

EQI Integration into Transportation Planning Scoping Information Sheet (TPSIS)

TPSIS is a Caltrans pre-planning tool to document:

- Project **costs, schedules, needs, and opportunities**
- Now includes **Section 2-2: Equity Considerations**

Why Integrate EQI?

- EQI helps identify **underserved communities** potentially impacted by a project
- Ensures equity is not an afterthought, but **embedded from the start**
- Aligns with **CAPTI goals** on climate, equity, and sustainability

❖ Equity decisions made early = more informed, inclusive, and effective projects

Transportation Planning Scoping Information Sheet

Proposed Project Summary

EA #	AM Tool ID #	EFIS Project ID #
County-Route-PM		
Anchor Asset		
Proposed Project Scope		
Proposed Fund Type		

Section 1: TPSIS Summary Statements & Recommended Actions

1-1 Project Summary Refer to TPSIS Section: ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ Other		Provide a justification if needs/opportunities are not recommended to be included in project scope.
Project Needs/Opportunities:		
Project Risks/Challenges:		
1-2 List recommendations based on identified needs/opportunities to be included in project scope. <i>(Provide section references below)</i>		
1-3 Road Safety Considerations		If not provide a justification, why.
Has "District Safe System Lead" been contacted through the TPSIS preparation process? ☐ Yes ☐ No		

Required Sections Checklist *(Check boxes below once completed)*:

☐ Section 1 ☐ Section 2 ☐ Section 3 ☐ Section 4 ☐ Section 5 ☐ Section 6-1

Prepared for use in Project Nomination by:

Received for use in Project Nomination by:

District Planning Representative (Date)

District Asset Manager (Date)

What EQI Adds to the Pre-Planning Process

EQI: Highlights **historically underserved** and **overburdened communities**

How EQI Supports TPSIS:

➤ Provides **data-driven insights** for Section 2-2 of TPSIS using the Analytical Tool:

- Are we affecting underserved communities?
- What are their mobility needs and access gaps?

➤ Encourages planners to:

- **Identify equity needs early**
- **Shape projects** that address disparities
- Promote **equitable outcomes** from day one

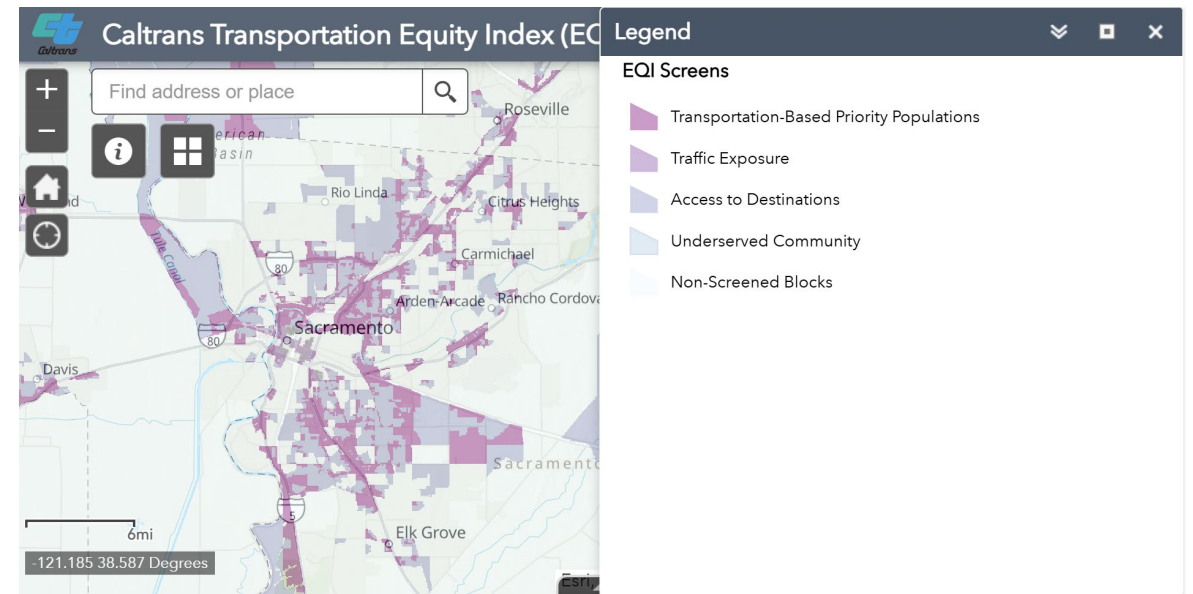
Section 2: Tribal Government Consultation, Local Partners, and Public Engagement Coordination

2-2 EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS		
2-2-1 Is the project located in or have the potential to affect underserved communities as identified by the Caltrans Equity Index (EQI) ?	☐ Yes ☐ No	<i>Describe the communities and any potential impacts.</i>
2-2-2 If 2-2-1 is Yes, what are their known mobility needs and existing opportunities to improve access based on the EQI? Input the project components into the EQI analytical tool* to generate a report for the impacted communities. Consider opportunities to increase equitable access and mobility, improve public health, and/or reconnect divided communities. *The tool is still draft and is currently being finalized by Director's office of Sustainability	<i>Describe needs and opportunities.</i>	

Outcome: Better-informed project scoping that reflects real community needs

SB 960 Implementation Support

- ❖ SB 960 requires Caltrans to direct Caltrans to establish a definition of "**underserved communities**" for of inclusive engagement for complete streets projects under the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP)
- ❖ EQI's **Underserved Community layer** used to define:
 - Low-income
 - Tribal
- ❖ Enables **consistent identification and engagement** statewide.



EQI Use Cases Under Development/Exploration

❖ SB1 Program

- Objective: Assess if EQI data is integrated and actively used in SB1 application scoring.
- Status: Initial conversations underway with SB1 program stakeholders.

❖ Maintenance Use Case Development

- Objective: Identify how EQI data can support and enhance maintenance planning and execution.
- Status: Early-stage discussions to define potential applications.

❖ Safety Use Case Development

- Objective: Explore opportunities to leverage EQI data to improve safety risk assessments and interventions.
- Status: Initial engagement with safety teams to gather requirements.

❖ EQI Integration into Caltrans Engagement Portal

- Objective: Incorporate EQI data to enhance transparency and public involvement in transportation decision-making.
- Status: Preliminary talks to understand integration feasibility and benefits.





Questions for the members

1. If you were designing a local use case for the Equity Index, what transportation decisions or challenges would you focus on?
-



Questions for the members

2. When making significant decisions—such as policies, programs, or resource allocation—what equity considerations are most important to your work, and how might EQI help make those factors more visible or measurable?

2.1. How might you in your professional capacity or as a community member use a tool like the Equity Index to inform decisions, advocacy, or project prioritization?



Questions for the members

3. How can Caltrans make this tool easier for non-technical users—like community organizations or local advocates—to apply in their own work?
-



Questions for the members

4. Is there a benefit to requiring the use of EQI in certain funding programs or local project prioritization? What would be needed in order for a requirement like that to be successful? (Think: CalEnviroScreen)
-



Questions for the members

5. Are there local or regional tools you already use (e.g., Healthy Places Index, CalEnviroScreen, local equity maps)? How could the EQI complement or improve upon those?
-

Thank You!



Caltrans Equity Index (EQI) | Caltrans



CaltransEQI@dot.ca.gov

