

# Caltrans Transportation Equity Index (EQI)

EAC Data Implementation Subcommittee

*April 16, 2026*



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

Director's Office of  
**Sustainability**





# Agenda

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- 01** Advisory Request: EQI User Guide Testing
- 02** EQI User Guide Overview
- 03** EQI Use Cases: Status Update
  - SB 1
  - TPSIS
  - EQI Analytical Tool
- 04** Exercises for Test Users
- 05** Q&A

# Advisory Request: EQI User Guide Testing

## Objectives

- Test the EQI user guide to ensure it is clear, practical, and well-designed
- Provide actionable feedback to improve the guidance

## Outcomes

- Refine the EQI User Guide prior to publishing
  - Improve the capability of Caltrans staff to integrate the EQI into their work
  - Identify technical assistance gaps for internal and external users
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# EQI User Guide Overview

## *BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE*

### **The User Guide Provides:**

- Step-by-step guidance for applying and understanding the EQI
- Methods to identify underserved communities and transportation-based priority populations
- Approaches to evaluate potential community impacts
- Direction for integrating equity considerations into project planning and analysis

**Goal:** Support consistent and effective use of EQI across Caltrans programs and districts, helping ensure transportation investments:

- Address community needs
- Reduce transportation burdens
- Improve equitable outcomes for all communities

# EQI User Guide Overview

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 1. EQI Overview and Core Components:

- Underserved communities
- Traffic exposure metrics
- Access to destinations metrics
- Transportation-based priority populations

### 2. When, Why, and How to Use EQI

### 3. Intro to the EQI Web Map

### 4. Interpreting EQI Data

- Guidance for Identifying Community Needs
- Guidance for Identifying Underserved Communities

### 5. EQI Analytical Tool (beta version)

### 6. Additional Resources

- Caltrans Engagement Portal
- Caltrans Statewide Engagement Playbook



# EQI Use Cases: Status Update

## Senate Bill 1 Funding Programs

- How can EQI make SB 1 funding applications more robust?
- Strengthen the EQI guidance in the SB 1 Program Equity Supplement and provide technical assistance to applicants.

## EQI Integration into the Transportation Planning Scoping Information Sheet (TPSIS)

- EQI enables early identification of underserved communities and equity gaps through screening questions integrated into TPSIS to inform planning decisions.
- Framework integrated into pre-planning checklist
- Expand to all districts after pilot validation and develop user training and guidance documentation.

## EQI Analytical Tool (beta version)

- The [EQI Analytical Tool](#) is intended to provide project-level EQI analysis, without requiring significant time or technical expertise.
  - Generated report includes a high-level assessment to determine what impact (if any) the project component will have on a community according to the EQI metrics.
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# Exercises for Test Users

## Exercise #1: Identifying Underserved Communities

**Prompt:** You are evaluating a proposed transportation project (real or hypothetical).

**Objective:** Determine whether the project is located within an EQI-identified underserved community.

**Steps:**

1. Open the EQI web map.
2. Locate the project area.
3. Turn on the “Underserved Communities” layer.

**Output:** Is the project located within an EQI-identified underserved community?

Yes       No

**Discussion Questions:**

- How easy was it to locate the project?
  - What challenges did you encounter when interpreting the layer?
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# Exercises for Test Users

## Exercise #2: Identifying Transportation Burdens

**Prompt:** You are evaluating a proposed transportation project (real or hypothetical).

**Objective:** Determine whether the project location meets any of the EQI criteria.

**Tasks:**

1. Open the EQI web map.
2. Locate the project area.
3. Turn on the “Traffic Exposure” layer.
4. Turn on the “Access to Destinations” layer.
5. Turn on the “Transportation-Based Priority Populations” layer.

**Output:** Does the project location meet any of the EQI criteria?

Yes       No      If yes, which layers apply?

**Discussion Questions:**

- How easy was it to locate the project?
  - What challenges did you encounter when interpreting the layers?
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# Exercises for Test Users

## Exercise #3: Screening for SB 960 Eligibility

**Prompt:** You are evaluating a proposed transportation project with complete streets features (e.g., sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes) to determine the level of engagement needed.

**Objective:** Determine SB 960 project eligibility based on proximity to underserved communities.

### Tasks:

1. Download the EQI Version 1.0 spatial data.
2. Open the data in ArcGIS Pro or other spatial analysis software package.
3. Use the SB 960 screening instructions to determine whether the project is within 500 meters (1,640 feet) of one or more underserved communities.

**Output:** Is the project located within 500 meters of an underserved community?

Yes     No

### Discussion Questions:

- How intuitive was the distance/proximity analysis?
  - What additional tools or features would improve this task?
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# Exercises for Test Users

## Exercise #4: Interpreting the EQI Analytical Tool Results

**Prompt:** You are scoping a proposed transportation project (e.g., corridor improvement, transit upgrade, safety enhancement) to determine its community impact.

**Objective:** Understand how project components influence transportation burdens and benefits.

### Steps:

1. Follow the user guide instructions to input a project in the EQI analytical tool.
2. Review relevant EQI indicators in the report
3. Identify equity impacts by the project components

### Output:

- List key EQI indicators affected by the proposed project.
- Briefly describe the nature of the impact (positive, negative, or neutral).

### Discussion Questions:

- Was the report easy to interpret? Why or why not?
  - What additional information, if any, would you need to more clearly interpret the report?
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# Thank You!



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