

## California Transportation Commission Equity Advisory Roundtable Charter

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the California Transportation Commission's (Commission) Equity Advisory Roundtable (Roundtable) is to identify inequities in transportation, recommend solutions to mitigate disparate impacts, and elevate diverse and valuable perspectives in the transportation process.

Specifically, the Commission is looking to enhance relationships with Black, Indigenous, and other communities of Color, individuals with disabilities, Native American Tribal Governments, and other communities who have been historically excluded from key transportation decisions, or disproportionately bear the burden of negative impacts resulting from transportation systems.

Roundtable members will collaborate with Commission staff, as well as staff from the California State Transportation Agency and Caltrans, over a series of virtual meetings to inform staff recommendations to the Commission related to the specific activities listed under Scope below. This Roundtable recognizes that transportation is essentially linked to economic development, housing, healthcare, education, and other critical services. The goal of this Roundtable effort is to identify and champion sustainable and implementable actions that support safe, affordable, reliable, efficient, and dignified transportation for under-resourced communities throughout California.

### **Scope:**

The Roundtable will advise the Commission on topics including:

- Incorporate best practices for meaningful engagement with residents, community-based organizations, and tribal governments into the Commission's meetings and program and planning guidelines;
- Improve pathways for residents, community-based organizations, and tribal governments to participate in and influence transportation planning and decision-making processes, while respecting tribal sovereignty;
- Support the development of forthcoming Community Listening Sessions that the Commission will hold in partnership with Caltrans and the California State Transportation Agency; and
- The development of an Equity Advisory Committee.

Commission staff have identified a select list of recommended topics for Roundtable discussion. This list may be expanded based on Roundtable feedback over time.

- Suggestions for topics to feature at public meetings of the Commission, including Joint Meetings with the California Air Resources Board and

California Department of Housing and Community Development, such as broadband access and multimodal facilities.

- Proposed revisions to the Commission’s planning and programming guidelines to be considered during the next guidelines update, within the authority granted by statute.
- Recommendations for how the Commission may implement its Racial Equity Statement (<https://catc.ca.gov/about/racial-equity-statement>).

This work is intended to begin in April 2021 and conclude in early 2022. The Roundtable is envisioned as an interim effort that will be succeeded by the formation of an Equity Advisory Committee. Commission staff will synthesize feedback from the Roundtable into recommendations to the Commission on the development of any Equity Advisory Committee.

To further guide the work of the Commission, staff will coordinate with Roundtable members toward the development of an equity definition and/or framework. This work may extend beyond the length of the Roundtable and be informed by the future Equity Advisory Committee.

### **Membership:**

At the August 2020 Commission Meeting, the Commission directed Commission staff to invite Roundtable participants representing several membership areas and reflecting the geographic, socio-economic, ability, and cultural diversity of California. The membership areas were developed in consultation with key stakeholders and include:

- Racial/Social Equity;
- Environmental Justice;
- Rural Communities Issues;
- Housing, Affordable Housing, Homelessness;
- Native American Tribal Government;
- Disability Rights, Social Services;
- Environment (e.g. Air Quality, Water Quality, Climate Change);
- Business, Economic Development, Workforce Development;
- Youth;
- Academia; and
- Other.

The Roundtable membership includes the following individuals (in alphabetical order by first name):

- **Connie Stewart**, Humboldt State University, Executive Director of Initiatives, Humboldt
- **Ivette Torres**, Environmental Justice Advocate, Jurupa Valley

- **Jacob Babauta**, Student – San Diego State University, San Diego
- **Jasmine Leek**, Third City Coalition, Founder & Managing Director, Stockton
- **Jerard Wright**, Greater LA Realtors, Government Affairs Director, Los Angeles
- **Keith Bergthold**, Fresno Metro Ministry, Executive Director, Fresno
- **Kiana Valentine**, Transportation California, Executive Director, Sacramento
- **Lena Morán-Acereto**, Bridging Voices – Uniendo Voces, LLC, Chief Executive Officer/Founder, Ventura
- **Leslie Sanders**, Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Transportation Manager and Representative for the North Coast Tribal Transportation Commission
- **Nailah Pope-Harden**, ClimatePlan, State Policy Manager, Sacramento
- **Randy Torres-Van Vleck**, City Heights Community Development Corporation, Director of Policy & Planning, San Diego
- **Rio Oxas**, RAHOK, Co-Founder, Los Angeles
- **Rodney Fong**, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director, San Francisco
- **Ruby Acevedo**, Public Advocates, Staff Attorney, San Francisco Bay Area
- **Russell Rawlings**, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, Statewide Community Organizer, Sacramento
- **Stephanie Ramirez**, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Associate State Director of Community, Los Angeles
- **Tamika Butler, Esq.**, Tamika L. Butler Consulting, Founder + Principal, Los Angeles

### **Public Meeting Schedule:**

Four public meetings of the Roundtable have been scheduled for 2021. The dates and times are as follows:

- Meeting #1: Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 1 PM – 4 PM
- Meeting #2: Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 1 PM – 4 PM
- Meeting #3: Thursday September 16, 2021, 1 PM – 4 PM
- Meeting #4: Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021, 9 AM – 12 PM

In addition, Commission staff will schedule 1 to 2 additional meetings for early 2022. The Roundtable meetings will be broadcast live online to allow individuals who are not Roundtable members, such as members of community-based organizations, government staff, and members of the public, to follow the Commission's progress and provide input. The perspectives of the Roundtable members will be centered in these meetings.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

Roundtable members will attend public meetings of the Roundtable and will provide perspectives on topics discussed.

Commissioners are encouraged to attend the Roundtable Meetings to listen to Roundtable member dialogue and contribute. Commissioners will receive updates on the Roundtable Meetings at regular Commission Meetings.

Commission staff will organize, advertise, and facilitate the Roundtable meetings. In addition, Commission staff will:

- Share any meeting notes with Roundtable members before posting publicly.
- Work with Roundtable members to develop recommendations to the Commission, including sharing draft recommendations with Roundtable members in advance of the meeting. Commission staff will work with Roundtable members to try to reach consensus on the recommendations where possible. Where not possible, staff will highlight these areas for Commissioners with a summary of the diverging viewpoints. There may be instances in which members of the Roundtable do not agree, and Commission staff will strive to capture and communicate all Roundtable member viewpoints to the Commission.
- Organize a standing agenda item at regular Commission Meetings to provide the opportunity for Roundtable members to directly present to the Commission on behalf of the Roundtable.
- Produce a short report in 2022 – to be presented to the Commission and shared publicly – summarizing the Roundtable effort and listing accomplishments.

Over the course of the Roundtable meetings, Commission staff will coordinate with staff from CalSTA and Caltrans, who will attend Roundtable meetings and will present information relevant to their agency and interagency efforts.

**Expectations:**

The public meetings of the Roundtable are intended to facilitate conversations about how the California Transportation Commission, CalSTA, Caltrans, and other government agencies can better consider and incorporate equity in their work. To support the creation of a safe and inclusive space, Roundtable Meeting participants should expect to:

- Listen actively without distractions;
- Show up on-time and prepared for the discussion;
- Avoiding interrupting whomever is speaking;
- Give priority to those who have not spoken, but would like to;

- Ask questions; and
- Consider opposing viewpoints.

Finally, Commission staff recognize participants may differ in their access to technology and high-speed internet. Commission staff support multiple forms of engagement before, during, and after the Roundtable meetings, including written comment, verbal comment, and participation via live webcast. Roundtable members may request to meet one-on-one with Commission staff to provide feedback, ask questions, or share concerns.