

Memorandum

To: MEMBERS

Roundtable Meeting: October 28, 2021

From: MITCH WEISS, Executive Director

Reference Number: Tab 3, Information

Prepared By: Brigitte Driller,
Assistant Deputy Director

Published Date: October 15, 2021

Subject: September 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Summary:

The meeting minutes for the September 16, 2021 Equity Advisory Roundtable (Roundtable) meeting are provided in Attachment A. At the October 28, 2021 Roundtable meeting, Commission staff will ask for any suggested edits to the meeting minutes from the Roundtable members or the public.

Background:

The meeting minutes for the September 16, 2021 Roundtable meeting (Attachment A) are intended to summarize the previous Roundtable meeting and are provided as information. Following the meeting on October 28, 2021, staff will finalize the meeting minutes and post on the Commission's website at www.catc.ca.gov.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: September 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
EQUITY ADVISORY ROUNDTABLE MEETING #3
SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 1PM - 4PM
MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call

Ruby Acevedo – *Absent*

Jacob Babauta – *Absent*

Keith Bergthold – *Absent*

Tamika Butler

Rodney Fong – *Absent*

Nailah Pope-Harden

Jasmine Leek

Lena Morán-Acereto

Rio Oxas

Stephanie Ramirez

Russel Rawling - *Absent*

Leslie Sanders

Connie Stewart

Ivette Torres

Randy Torres-Van Vleck

Kiana Valentine – *Absent*

Jerard Wright

Agenda Item 2: Welcome and Reflections From Previous Meetings

C. Sequoia Erasmus (Commission Staff): Provided brief welcoming remarks and acknowledged the need for further improvement of equity implementation in the transportation planning process. Ms. Erasmus is hopeful for the collaboration with State agencies and partners to move forward and shift into more sustainable changes. Additionally, compensation for Roundtable members has been finalized and will be made available to members who have requested it.

Jeannie Ward-Waller (Caltrans Staff): Appreciated the robust conversations from last Roundtable meeting and is thankful for the feedback received on the listening sessions. The contract with ICF, who will be the consultant lead for that

project, has been executed. Introduced Carolyn Abrams, who has joined the Caltrans Office on Race and Equity as the Priority Populations Program Manager.

Agenda Item 3: May 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Brigitte Driller (Commission Staff): Presented meeting minutes from May 26, 2021 Roundtable meeting. These minutes were posted online on September 3rd and sent out to Roundtable members and stakeholders. The minutes summarize the May 26th meeting and are intended to provide information about the meeting.

No suggested edits were received. Meeting minutes will be posted on Commission's Equity webpage.

Agenda Item 4: Roundtable Charter Finalization

Brigitte Driller (Commission Staff): Provided an update on the Roundtable Charter. Previous versions were presented to the Roundtable members at the April 21, 2021 and May 26, 2021 Roundtable meetings. Ms. Driller highlighted the addition of language to the final charter which indicates the development of an equity definition and framework may extend beyond the Roundtable effort and be informed by the Equity Advisory Committee. The Charter is envisioned as a living document and can be changed during the Roundtable process.

No comments were received from Roundtable members or Commissioners.

Public comment:

Leah Van Winkle, representing an encampment in West Oakland, would like to see unhoused representatives on this committee.

Tab 5: Caltrans Engagement and Equity Updates

Amar Cid (Caltrans Staff): Acknowledged Latino/Latina/Latinx heritage month. Ms. Cid thanked everyone for the input and feedback received during the last Roundtable meeting and highlighted ongoing efforts including Caltrans' Reconnecting Communities Program.

Carolyn Abrams (Caltrans Staff): Provided update on the Listening Sessions. These sessions will likely start virtually in early December and late January. Leading up to these sessions, ICF plans to conduct facilitation training for Caltrans, Commission, and CalSTA staff. Our agencies will be working with community-based organizations and other partners to specifically engage communities that have been under-resourced and overburdened by transportation disparities.

Commissioner Eager: How did you decide on the criteria for the selection process for the areas of the Listening Sessions?

Ms. Cid: Various factors came into play, such as community support in the city of Selma. For Los Angeles and Ventura, it's a larger population and there's a lot of different access points and separation points. Caltrans used more surveying, touching in with different community groups to gain insight and identify the communities used for this pilot. For San Diego, port sites were identified because of larger support and because they were identified as Assembly Bill (AB) 617 communities through the California Air Resources AB 617 program development process.

Jeanie Ward-Waller (Caltrans staff): Caltrans districts nominated many communities to be a part of this effort, and we are trying to sift through the long list of recommendations to create a strategy for this iteration. If we get the grant from the RAISE program (United States Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity), we can use it as a start to this work.

Commissioner Lyou: We are going to have to anticipate a lot of venting from those who have faced transportation injustices throughout the decades. How will leadership be engaging with this process? It is very important to have the highest levels of leadership participate in some way.

Ms. Ward-Waller: We are dedicated to building trust and have had conversations with Caltrans management and agree that their engagement is important. We would love to get your input into how executive management and Commissioners would engage and participate in these sessions.

Jerard Wright: Agreed with building trust and rapport with community. It is necessary in order to come to a consensus on these important issues. We need to be open to have the conversation and really hear and listen to what each other are saying to get to the next step.

Mitch Weiss (Executive Director, Commission): Thanked everyone for their support of the development of Listening Sessions and emphasized doing things right instead of fast.

Commissioner Falcon: Thanked everyone for their work on this important effort and is looking forward to hearing from communities on how the transportation system has impacted them. San Diego port sides have been heavily impacted by transportation infrastructure and have almost divided communities.

Ivette Torres: You mentioned Colton, but it wasn't on the slide, is this going to be a part of the pilot?

Ms. Cid: Colton is listed on the pilot and project for the RAISE application.

Leslie Sanders: Tribal populations throughout the state of California have very different transportation issues and needs. With tribal communities, we want the agency leaders to be there. Listening sessions need to be done with tribes and separate from other communities.

Connie Stewart: Agreed with Leslie. Having a meeting with indigenous people is very different from meeting with tribal leadership. In addition to having agency leadership present, it's important to have transparency with the community regarding how each project will impact them.

Public Comment:

Leah Van Winkle and Theo Jones: Residents of Wood Street Commons in West Oakland have equity concerns of Black residents threatened with eviction this Monday by Caltrans. We would like to have engagement with Caltrans because this does not serve equity to have residents displaced. We would like to see more representation from unhoused individuals.

Brigitte Driller (Commission staff): Our next agenda item is on the development of our Equity Advisory Committee and we will consider representation from unhoused individuals on this committee. Housing insecurity and encampments along transportation corridors are gaining attention as critical equity issues, and the importance of having the perspectives of those communities within interagency equity advisory roles is critical. We have been in conversation with advocates from unhoused communities and will prioritize the participation of unhoused leaders in future advisory committee capacities.

Public Comment:

Sally Goodman: Will the Charter be posted online?

Ms. Driller: The Charter will be posted on our webpage, and we can make sure to get Ms. Goodman a copy of the Charter.

Tab 6: Equity Advisory Committee Overview and Panel Discussion

C. Sequoia Erasmus (Commission Staff), Amar Cid (Caltrans Staff), and Avital Barnea (CalSTA Staff): Provided presentation and updates regarding interagency equity coordination.

Panel Discussion with Roundtable members (Randy Torres Van-Vleck, Rio Oxas, and Tamika Butler) and external participant Jane Clough (San Diego Association of Governments) moderated by Nailah Pope-Harden. This panel discussed the importance of establishing an Equity Advisory Committee, and best practices in implementing advisory bodies.

Tab 7: Public Comment

None

Tab 8: Meeting Recap and Next Steps

C. Sequoia Erasmus (Commission staff):

- Caltrans, the Commission, and the California State Transportation Agency will work to ensure that leadership is present for the Community Listening Sessions.
- Caltrans will work internally with District staff to coordinate a response to comments raised regarding encampments in Caltrans District 4.
- And we will continue to reflect on the insights shared by our panel members, including the importance of sharing power and building authentic relationships with communities.

The next Roundtable meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2021. At that meeting we are tentatively planning to discuss Caltrans' Equity Index Tool and incorporating equity into the Commission's competitive transportation funding programs, and we will be in touch with Roundtable members as we build the agenda.