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Carl Guardino and Darnell Grisby Elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the California Transportation Commission

MODESTO, Calif. – At its January 25 and 26 meeting, the California Transportation Commission (Commission) elected Carl Guardino as its Chair and Darnell Grisby as its Vice Chair, effective March 1.

“I look forward to taking on the role of Commission Chair and working with Governor Newsom’s Administration, the Legislature, and our state, regional, and local partners to meet the mobility needs of all Californians,” said Chair-elect Guardino. “I thank my Commission colleagues for their confidence as we continue to work towards addressing the complex transportation challenges facing communities across California.”



Carl Guardino was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to a four-year term on the Commission in 2007, reappointed twice by Governor Jerry Brown, and in 2019 and 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed him to his fourth and fifth consecutive four-year terms. He has served as Commission Vice Chair since 2022.

Mr. Guardino serves as the Vice President of Government Affairs at Tarana Wireless, whose mission is to “accelerate the world’s progress on closing its persistent digital divide through faster, more affordable broadband for literally billions of people on the planet.” Prior to joining Tarana Wireless, he served as the Executive Vice President of Global Government Affairs and Policy for Bloom Energy, and nearly 24 years as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, a public policy trade association that represents more than 350 of Silicon Valley’s most respected employers.

His transportation leadership includes successful management of ballot Measures A & B in 1996 that funded 19 key road and rail improvements. In 2000, he co-managed a traffic relief initiative that will generate some \$7.5 billion in local funds to bring Bay Area Rapid Transit to Santa Clara County. In 2008, Mr. Guardino managed the successful Measure B campaign which authorized a 1/8-cent sales tax for 30 years to fund a 16-mile Santa Clara County Bay Area Rapid Transit extension. He led a three-year effort that culminated in Measure B on the November 2016 ballot, which generates an additional \$6.5 billion in local funds for traffic relief improvements. In June of 2018, he co-led the Bay Area’s first 9-County transportation measure – Regional Measure 3 – which generates \$4.5 billion in its first 25 years. Mr. Guardino co-led the successful 3-County effort to fund Caltrain Commuter Rail Service along the San Francisco Peninsula through the Measure RR Campaign in 2020.

Mr. Guardino was born and raised in San Jose and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from San Jose State University, where he is a Distinguished Alumnus. He is married to Leslee Guardino. In their spare time, they compete in marathons, triathlons, and duathlons. They have two daughters, Jessica, and Siena, and one son, Jake.

Appointed to the Commission by Governor Newsom in March 2021, Darnell Grisby is a nationally recognized social impact leader who champions upward mobility by advancing policies that promote justice through economic opportunity and environmental stewardship.



He currently serves as Senior Fellow at the Beneficial State Foundation, where he leads programs that support economic mobility through transportation and financial justice. He spent the previous nine years as Director of Policy Development and Research at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), where he helped protect public transportation from budget cuts, assisted cities around the nation pursuing local transit ballot initiatives, and showcased the economic power of transportation investments. Mr. Grisby served as a legislative director and senior advisor in the California State Legislature and a government affairs professional before working at Reconnecting America, a think tank devoted to smart growth.

Mr. Grisby has been quoted or featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, National Public Radio, and Bloomberg, among many other outlets. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science at UCLA and a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

The California Transportation Commission is an independent state agency responsible for funding highway, local road, transit, intercity passenger rail, active transportation, and general aviation projects throughout California. The Commission also advises and assists the California State Transportation Agency Secretary and the Legislature on state transportation policies and plans.

For more information, visit the Commission's website at catc.ca.gov.

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