



## Interagency Equity Advisory Committee

### Background

Forming the interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) is a priority for the California Transportation Commission (Commission), California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The Committee is intended to elevate diverse and historically marginalized voices to advise our agencies on how to achieve meaningful outcomes in transportation equity, environmental justice, and equitable economic opportunities, especially as related to transportation planning and programming.

From mid-2020 through early 2021, the Commission, CalSTA, and Caltrans released racial equity statements highlighting each agency's strong commitment to equity. To implement these statements, each agency identified the development of an Equity Advisory Committee as a tangible tool to implement meaningful change. This strategy was memorialized in the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI).

One Committee consisting of up to 15 members serving two-year staggered terms will make recommendations to the Commission, CalSTA, and Caltrans. Recommendations will focus on tools and guidelines for transportation planning and funding programs. The Committee will meet pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. The Commission, CalSTA, and Caltrans retain final decision-making authority.

For additional background information please visit the following website: [Approval of Interagency Equity Advisory Committee and Proposed Structure \(ca.gov\)](https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/ctc-meetings/2022/2022-06/16-4-3-a11y.pdf) (https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/ctc-meetings/2022/2022-06/16-4-3-a11y.pdf)

### Application Period and How to Apply

Applications will be accepted starting **August 8, 2022**.

Applications will close on **September 2, 2022**.

Applicants recommended for the Committee will be notified in early October 2022. Membership recommendations will be considered at the October 12-13 meeting of the Commission.



The application for the Equity Advisory Committee can be found here:  
<https://forms.office.com/g/r7kzHkQcvT>

Interested applicants can also utilize the following QR code to access the application:



### **Committee Membership**

Membership is intended to focus on marginalized communities (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, rural communities, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual individuals, older adults, youth, low-income, etc.) in California. The Committee will consist of experts representing the following classifications:

- Tribes/Indigenous Communities
- Community-based organizations
- Climate and air quality organizations
- Housing and housing justice organizations
- Environmental justice and equity organizations
- Individuals or organizations offering an accessibility and disability perspective
- Community members reflecting different geographies and areas of the state, especially rural areas
- Community and economic development organizations
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE)
- Labor organizers and non-represented groups
- Non-traditional industry (i.e., shared mobility)

### **Minimum Criteria for Involvement**

Below are the minimum parameters for involvement in the Committee:

- The applicant must reside in California
- The applicant must clearly demonstrate and have a history of equity-centered personal or professional experience, community leadership, or be actively engaged in transportation equity, policy, programming,



- advocacy, or related fields such as health, air quality, climate, housing justice, community, and socio-economic development, etc.
- A willingness to collaborate with other members
  - Commitment to public meeting dates for content review and discussion

### **Member Responsibilities**

If selected, membership involvement includes the following:

- Four public Committee meetings per year
  - Supported by staff from CalSTA, Caltrans, and the Commission
  - If selected as Committee Chair or Vice Chair additional monthly meetings to set Committee meeting agendas and plan with interagency staff
- Two joint public meetings with the Commission, Caltrans Director or designee, and CalSTA Secretary, or designee
- Members may be consulted individually to inform policy and guidelines development based on their expertise
- “Lunch and Learn” Opportunities
  - Optional opportunities to engage in a learning capacity with topics such as transportation equity, planning, policy, and programming

### **Committee Scope of Work**

The Committee is anticipated to review, advise, and make recommendations on transportation related plans, programs and policies that include, but are not limited to:

- State transportation planning guidelines
- State transportation funding program guidelines
- State transportation plans
- Quantitative and qualitative metrics for evaluating equity benefits and outcomes
- Incorporation of meaningful community engagement practices into all aspects of transportation work
- Assessment of equitable outcomes in projects, policies, and programs
- Assistance with future Racial Equity Action Plans, as applicable
- Development of recommendations regarding best practices to elevate equity in project planning and delivery
- Development of a public participation guidebook

Recommendations made by the Committee will be considered for incorporation into each agency’s policies and programs. Each agency will report progress



made in implementing or justification for not implementing Committee recommendations.

### **Virtual and In-Person Expectations for Public Meetings**

In the future, travel to meeting locations around the state will be required as a part of service on this committee. Travel expenses related to meetings are paid by the coordinating agencies and are reimbursable consistent with rules and restrictions set forth by the California Department of Human Resources.

### **Reasonable Accommodations**

The Committee will provide reasonable accommodations to assist members with disabilities to participate in virtual or in-person meetings, as specified through Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act stipulations.

### **Compensation**

Committee members will be reimbursed for actual travel cost incurred consistent with rules and restrictions set forth by the California Department of Human Resources. The Commission, CalSTA, and Caltrans continue work to identify a way to compensate committee members for their time and expertise, but currently lack the authority to do so. Strategies currently under investigation include procurement of discretionary grants or foundation funding.

### **Conflict of Interest**

Although committee members are not considered to be public officials under the Political Reform Act, to identify potential conflicts of interest and any appearance of impropriety, committee members may be required to complete a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) prior to taking a seat on the Committee, annually, and upon the conclusion of the member's term.

Members of the Committee shall comply with the Political Reform Act, with the regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission, and all other provisions concerning ethics, conflicts of interest, and incompatible activities. Under the Political Reform Act, Committee members may not take part in a governmental decision in which they have a disqualifying conflict of interest. Such a conflict exists if it is reasonably foreseeable that the decision will have a material financial effect on one or more of the official's economic interests. It is the responsibility of Committee members to determine whether participating on the Committee and accepting compensation might create a conflict of interest with their current employment or other projects.



## **Frequently Asked Questions and Informational Webinar**

Agency staff will post a Frequently Asked Questions Page and hold an informational meeting on **August 25, 2022**. Please send any questions regarding this call for applicants to the following [raceandequity@dot.ca.gov](mailto:raceandequity@dot.ca.gov) no later than **August 19, 2022**.

*Should you have trouble accessing this application, please reach out to any of the following staff:*

**C. Sequoia Erasmus**, Associate Deputy Director, Equity and Engagement  
California Transportation Commission  
Email: [Sequoia.Erasmus@catc.ca.gov](mailto:Sequoia.Erasmus@catc.ca.gov)

**Amar Cid**, Program Manager, Caltrans Office on Race and Equity  
CA Department of Transportation  
Email: [Amar.Cid@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Amar.Cid@dot.ca.gov)

**Avital Barnea**, Deputy Secretary for Transportation Planning,  
California State Transportation Agency  
Email: [Avital.Barnea@calsta.ca.gov](mailto:Avital.Barnea@calsta.ca.gov)