



# Bridging the Gap

May 2026

## 2025 Excellence in Transportation Awards



How does the department acknowledge the hard work and success of multiple projects? — Competition. Caltrans recognizes the best work in transportation design, construction, traffic operations, maintenance, planning, and improvements across California with the Excellence in Transportation Awards. Each year, Caltrans, local agencies, contractors, and consultants nominate projects for the award. We are pleased to showcase the following projects that have not only met California's growing transportation needs, but also align with our strategic priorities.

Santa Monica 20th Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Connection earned the Multimodal Transportation Award. A bicycle signal, protected crossings, and a two-way cycle track delivered a safe, intuitive solution to close the gap between a neighborhood greenway and bike path.

The Plumas State Route 70 Permanent Restoration earned the Climate Action Award for a permanent restoration of a roadway slope caused by a 2017 storm at the Feather River Corridor. The approach supports vegetation growth, enhances soil stability, and promotes riparian habitat.

The Old River Bridge Preventive Maintenance and Systems Modernization earned the Cultivating Excellence Award for rehabilitating a historically significant 100-year-old bridge on State Route 4.

The Pacific Coast Highway Master Plan Feasibility Study earned the Safety-First Award for recommending potential improvements in a heavy-traffic section of State Route 1 in Malibu, where motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians share space.

The SB 101 Carpinteria to Santa Barbara High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Project won the Highway Urban Award for relieving traffic congestion via a part-time peak hour HOV lane on a stretch of Highway 101 in Santa Barbara County.





The Calpella Creek Two Bridges Replacement Project won the Highway Rural Award for replacing the old Russian River Bridge and undercrossing with a new cast-in-place box girder bridge, improving safety for motorists and bicyclists.

The Major Structures Award went to the Saratoga Creek Bridge Replacement Project for replacing a 146-foot-long earthen-filled concrete arch bridge on State Route 9 in Santa Clara County. The design's build was hidden within the confines of the original bridge.

The Public Awareness Campaign Award went to the Cordilleras Creek Bridge Replacement Project for a robust awareness campaign that delivered clear, consistent messaging for the 240,000 daily travelers.

These award winning projects exemplify the innovation, collaboration, and commitment that drive California's transportation network forward. Each effort reflects the department's dedication to safety, sustainability, mobility, and multimodal access for all who travel across our state. Congratulations to this year's recipients, whose excellence sets the standard for delivering a modern, resilient, and people centered transportation system. Their achievements inspire us as we continue building a California that moves safely and efficiently—today and for generations to come. Are you interested in working on projects like this? Visit [Working with the Division of Engineering Services](#) for more information about current job openings to begin a career at Caltrans.



Saratoga Creek Bridge Rehabilitation Project