

**Planning/Policy/
Programming****May 2026****Project Title:** Governance of Multimodal Planning: Examining Transit Corridor Planning Strategies in California**Task Number:** 4702**Start Date:** January 1, 2026**Completion Date:** March 31, 2027**Task Manager:**Kevin Spiker
Associate Transportation Planner
Kevin.spiker@dot.ca.gov**DRISI Division Chief:**Prakash Sah, PE
Prakash.Sah@dot.ca.gov

Governance of Multimodal Planning: Examining Transit Corridor Planning Strategies in California

This project examines how California regions plan multimodal corridors and how agencies and providers coordinate during that process. Through case studies, document review, and stakeholder interviews, it identifies best practices, common challenges, and the ways planners balance competing goals. The research also explores how public and private partners can align their roles and incentives, offering insights that support Caltrans' efforts to build more integrated regional and statewide transit networks.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

There is a growing need to understand how multimodal corridor planning in California can be made more effective. Although coordinated planning of transit, active transportation, and land use has been shown to improve mobility outcomes, these efforts often face significant challenges, especially around institutional coordination among agencies. Despite the importance of these governance issues, they remain understudied in the California context.

To address this gap, research is needed to examine how recent and past corridor-level and sub-regional planning efforts have been carried out, what factors contributed to their success or difficulties, and how stakeholders' goals, processes, and decision-making approaches shaped the outcomes. Through case studies, document analysis, and stakeholder interviews, this research will identify best practices, common barriers, and lessons learned. The findings will help clarify how state agencies can better support integrated, multimodal corridor planning in the future.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

This project will review how California regions plan multimodal corridors aimed at improving mobility, accessibility, and sustainability outcomes such as lower VMT, reduced climate



DRISI provides solutions and knowledge that improves California's transportation system.

impacts, and better safety and health. It will analyze case studies to understand how transit, walking, and biking improvements—like signal priority, transit-only lanes, and bike lanes—are coordinated with land use decisions. The research will assess how well these elements are integrated and identify opportunities to strengthen corridor-level planning.

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The goal of this project is to understand how long-term multimodal transit corridor planning efforts in California are carried out and what factors shape their outcomes. Through case studies involving document review and stakeholder interviews, the project will identify best practices, common obstacles, and recurring pitfalls in corridor-level planning. It will analyze how planners balance and reconcile competing goals, and examine where and why trade-offs arise during the process. The project will also assess how state government actions and policies can better support effective multimodal corridor planning. Finally, it will generate lessons and broader insights that can inform similar planning efforts in other regions beyond California.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

This project will clarify how corridor-level planning can better coordinate transit and paratransit services across public and private providers. These findings will directly support Caltrans' interest in developing more integrated statewide and intercity bus networks by offering insight into the within-region coordination needed to make those networks function effectively. The research will also shed light on the roles public and private partners may be willing to take on—and what incentives they may need—in order to participate in more connected, collaborative transportation systems.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

The research team has identified the case study projects for our study and conducted extensive analysis of public documents pertaining to each case study, including plans and policies by transit agencies, regional transportation agencies, and local governments. They have also identified contacts to approach for interviews, obtained IRB approval to conduct interviews, and begun outreach requesting interview participation.

IMAGES



Image 1: Dutch Kills Green, Queens Plaza, Queens, NY.
Wallace Roberts Todd, Margie Ruddick Landscape,
Michael Singer Studio, Marpillero Pollak Architects / Sam Oberter