

# Director's Policy

Number: DP-40

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Supersedes: N/A

Responsible  
Program: Transit and Rail  
Programs / Planning  
and Modal Programs /  
Project Delivery /  
Maintenance and  
Operations / Asset  
Management /  
Sustainability

**Title** Transit

## **Policy**

Public transit provides vital mobility to many Californians daily, central to powering our state's society and economy. As outlined in the Director's Complete Streets Policy DP-37, it is California Department of Transportation (Caltrans') organizational priority to encourage and maximize transit as a strategy to not only meet state climate, health, equity, and environmental outcomes but also to foster socially and economically vibrant, thriving, and resilient communities. Furthermore, public transit use results in significant safety benefits for all road users and aid California to achieve its goal of eliminating fatalities and serious injuries, as outlined in Director's Road Safety Policy DP-36 and the Secretary's Policy 01 -25 on Road Safety.

To this end, Caltrans supports, and, to the extent feasible and practicable, incorporates transit priority facilities within the State Highway System (SHS).

Caltrans partners with local agencies, Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA's) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) to plan, build, and maintain Caltrans transit priority facilities and transit supportive infrastructure on the SHS to the extent feasible and practicable using available and eligible funding.

Caltrans will establish metrics for transit that strengthen Caltrans' ability to evaluate and measure the performance of and need for transit on the SHS.

Caltrans will increase engagement with our partners and stakeholders such as transit operators, local governments, tribal governments, regional transportation planning agencies, transit advocacy organizations, and representatives from local transit advisory committees, community-based organizations, disadvantaged communities, and other locally-affected communities to the extent feasible and practicable. Wherever feasible, Caltrans will also enhance partnerships with transit agencies to use transit data and technology to improve planning and operational analysis for transit.

### **Intended Results**

The intended result of this policy is to improve transit access on the State Highway System.

In addition to the actions identified above, Caltrans will identify Caltrans transit priority facility and transit supportive infrastructure needs on the SHS as a part of the development of the District Transit Plans. Project sponsors must identify project scope and costs associated with any proposed transit-priority facilities and transit-supportive infrastructure on the SHS. When proposed or developed by agencies other than Caltrans, the scope and cost estimates are subject to Caltrans review and approval. Caltrans must remain compliant with California Government Code sections 14526.4 through 14526.7 and Streets and Highways Code sections 164.6 and 2030 and the related following sections when funding transit facilities.

### **Definitions**

***Definitions provided in this section are in context to this Director's policy.***

#### *Public Transit*

Public transit, also referred to as mass transportation, includes a variety of shared transportation options open to all people, such as buses, light rail and heavy rail (Metro/Subway) trains, regional commuter rail, and ferries.

Investments in transit capital, operations, and maintenance are funded through subsidies from federal, State, and local grant programs, including several programs administered by Caltrans, and revenue transit systems generate through means such as fares and advertising. People often use other modes with transit to complete their trips; for example, walking or rolling to a transit stop, biking to transit, or taking intercity rail to transit. In addition to fixed-route systems, transit agencies operate demand-responsive services including paratransit services for people with mobility assistance needs and curb-to-curb services open to the public.

### *State Highway System*

The Interstate system and all other roads within the state that are owned, operated and maintained under the jurisdiction of Caltrans, as defined in Streets and Highways Code sections 231 to 232.

### *Transit Priority Facilities*

Transit Priority Facilities refer to infrastructure that makes road-based transit service faster and more reliable. Such infrastructure may include, transit-only lanes, managed lanes (as defined in Deputy Directive DD-43-R2), queue jump lanes at intersections, traffic signal priority for transit, and shoulders that serve as bus lanes during congested periods.

### *Transit-Supportive Facilities*

Transit-Supportive Facilities is a broad term including operational Transit Priority Facilities as well as pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure amenities, multimodal connections, and infrastructure supporting transit stops.

### *Underserved Community*

Caltrans defines "Underserved Communities" within the context of SB 960 and the Caltrans Equity Index (EQI) as census blocks meeting either of the following criteria:

- **Low-Income Status:** : Census blocks with a median household income at or below 80% of the statewide median household income, OR a median household income at or below the county low-income limit established by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.
- **Tribal Land Status:** Census blocks within or touching Tribal land, as identified in the SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities definition.

### *Access to Destinations*

Access to destinations, sometimes referred to as "destination access" or "accessibility," is the ease by which travelers can reach desired destinations such as work, shopping and other retail, school, health care, and recreation. Access to destinations reflects the number and type of destinations that people can reach by a given mode. This is distinct from accessibility in the

context of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); refer to Deputy Directive 42-R4 American with Disabilities Act for more information on ADA and State Disability Laws.

### *Transit Program Advisor*

The Transit Program Advisor is a Headquarters level point of contact for Caltrans employees, local officials, and transit agencies to discuss concerns and suggestions relating to transit. Their goal is to promote transit efficiency, improve the allocation of resources to transit, and to increase the number of transit users/trips across the state.

## **Responsibilities**

Specific implementation responsibilities of Caltrans programs, divisions, districts, and offices in achieving this policy's objectives are listed below.

### **Transit and Rail Programs**

#### Deputy Director, Transit and Rail

- Provides strategic leadership for transit and rail programs, champion integration of transit-supportive infrastructure, and foster partnerships to enhance transit connectivity.

#### Chief, Division of Mass Transportation

- Manages the development of State transit plan in collaboration with Data and Digital Services.
- Develops and maintains the District Transit Plan guidelines, tools, and training programs for identifying transit priority facilities and transit-supportive infrastructure needs on the State Highway System (SHS).
- Develops performance measures for transit on the SHS, in collaboration with Data and Digital Services, Local Assistance, Traffic Operations, Asset Management, Project Delivery and other relevant stakeholders.
- Develops, maintains, and updates state plans, training, and resources to assist in the identification and prioritization of transit priority projects.
- Promotes benefits of transit-supportive infrastructure for SHS performance.
- Informs and educates Caltrans staff on transit-related information.
- Encourages transit inclusion within Caltrans documents and projects and early engagement with partners and stakeholders on transit.
- Encourages and supports early engagement with partners and stakeholders on transit-supportive infrastructure.
- Administers federal and state transit grant programs, including guidelines and procedures, regarding eligibility for transit grants.
- Recommends funding for transit grants consistent with state-led transit

plans and federal and state guidelines.

#### Chief, Division of Rail

- Coordinates with Caltrans Transportation Planning staff on intercity passenger rail and bus projects as well as State Rail Plan updates to optimize connections between local transit and intercity rail and bus and facilitate streamlined transportation services.
- Coordinates with Caltrans Transportation Planning and Districts as well as local transit agencies to provide passenger rail schedule updates through standard formats such as the General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS).
- Coordinates with Caltrans Districts and local transit agencies to identify opportunities to speed up transit vehicle access near rail stations and construct infrastructure for simplified transfers between modes.
- Coordinates with Data and Digital Services and Transportation Planning on intercity bus planning and identifying SHS and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) improvements to facilitate improved intercity bus performance.
- Notifies Caltrans Districts and local transit agencies when capital improvements to passenger rail stations are being planned or programmed so that network integration and design review can be coordinated across agencies.
- Supports identifying transit projects in alignment with Caltrans goals and priorities.

#### Chief, Division of Data and Digital Services – California Integrated Mobility

- In coordination with transit agencies, analyzes data on transit performance on the SHS to identify where transit priority facilities would most benefit service.
- Facilitates consistency among Caltrans and transit agencies in modernized transit technologies.
- Supports statewide adoption of transit data standards.
- Coordinates with Asset Management, Traffic Operations, and Transit Program Advisors to support the development of performance methodology.

#### District Directors

- Develop and update District Transit Plans for developing and improving transit-supportive infrastructure on the SHS in consultation with transit agencies and other local stakeholders.
- Provide support and technical assistance to transit agencies on activities such as grant administration, data management, and technological

modernization.

- Support the development of project intake, evaluation, and review process for transit facilities.
- Consult with transit agencies to implement Caltrans plans, policies, and guidance.

## **Planning and Modal Programs**

### Deputy Director, Planning and Modal

- Provides executive leadership to integrate transit into statewide, interregional, and regional planning frameworks, guiding multimodal strategies and research initiatives that advance connectivity and system performance.

### Chief, Division of Transportation Planning

- Promotes benefits of transit-supportive infrastructure for SHS performance.
- Encourages transit inclusion within Caltrans documents and projects and early engagement with partners and stakeholders on transit.
- Encourages and supports early engagement with partners and stakeholders on transit-supportive infrastructure.
- Updates Project Initiation Document guidance as needed to incorporate transit planning activities.

### Chief, Division of Research, Innovation, and Systems Information

- Sponsors and contributes to research that offers potential datasets or methodologies that may be used to revise or create new transit related performance metrics, transit related design standards, and travel demand modeling.

### District Directors

- Support project coordination, ideally before project initiation, with local and regional plans and projects.
- Promote transit improvements and land uses supportive of transit in local projects through the Local Development-Intergovernmental Review Process.
- Include transit-supportive infrastructure in SHS plans and projects when feasible and practicable, in accordance with Caltrans plans and guidance.

## **Project Delivery**

### Deputy Director, Project Delivery

- Provides executive leadership and strategic direction for oversight of transit-supportive infrastructure.

Chief, Division of Design

- Develops, maintains, and updates geometrical design guidance, policies, procedures, and standards to facilitate the integration of transit-supportive infrastructure into the SHS.
- Promotes context-sensitive solutions that enable Districts to plan and design transit-supportive infrastructure serving all ages and abilities. Refer to Director's Policy 22 Context Sensitive Solutions for more information.

Chief, Division of Project Management

- Develops, promotes, and updates policies and procedures that support the integration and delivery of transit-supportive infrastructure in the Caltrans project delivery process.
- Provides guidance and support for District project managers to lead coordination with transit agencies during project delivery phases.

Chief, Division of Engineering Services

- Provides support and technical assistance to the Districts during all phases of the project development process as needed including the PID Phase, Environmental Assessment and Project Approval Phase (PA&ED), Final Design phase and Construction phase.

District Directors

- Include transit-supportive infrastructure in SHS projects when feasible and practicable, in accordance with Caltrans plans and guidance.
- Deliver projects in coordination with transit agencies, MPOs, RTPAs, and other affected transit stakeholders.
- Document project decisions related to transit-supportive infrastructure.
- review and resolution of exceptions to accessibility or geometric design standards.
- Secure support of and coordinate with Division of Engineering Services functional units (for example, Landscape Architecture, Traffic Design, Design, Electrical, etc.).
- Support and implement project specific agreements, such as Operating Agreements, Freeway Maintenance Agreements, and project cooperative agreements as needed.
- Support any right-of-way acquisition needs.

**Finance**

Chief Financial Officer

- Provides guidance for financial oversight for eligible programs that support transit priority facilities on the SHS.

State Asset Management Engineer

- Supports development of SHS performance methodology and measures for transit.

**Maintenance, Operations, Safety, and Equipment**

Deputy Director, Maintenance, Operations, Safety, and Equipment

- Provides executive leadership and strategic direction for the development of guidance for operations, permitting, maintenance, and safety that considers transit priority facilities on the SHS and the needs of transit users.

Chief, Division of Maintenance

- Collaborates with the Division of Data and Digital Services in maintaining and providing accurate data on Caltrans transit agency assets located on the State Highway Network, including asset inventories, lifecycles, and related information.
- Develops guidance for maintenance agreements with transit agencies for transit priority facilities and transit stops on the SHS, in coordination with District maintenance agreement coordinators.

Chief, Division of Traffic Operations

- Oversees and develops guidance for permitting and operational enhancements of transit priority facilities on the SHS.
- Supports the development of design guidance for transit facilities in coordination with Headquarters Division of Design.
- Supports the development of Transportation System Management and Operations strategies for transit.
- Supports the development of transit data collection in collaboration with transit agencies.

Chief, Division of Safety Programs

- Considers the needs of transit users when updating safety policies and guidelines aligned with DP-36 Road Safety and the Secretary's Policy 01-25 on Road Safety.

District Directors

- Designate an individual who has expertise in transit priority facilities and other transit-supportive infrastructure.
- Approve or deny applications for encroachment permits for transit-supportive infrastructure on the SHS in accordance with current laws and regulations
- Coordinate with transit agencies on permit submittals for consistency with Caltrans current transit plans, policies and standards.

## **Director's Office**

### Chief, Sustainability

- Tracks implementation of transit actions in the Complete Streets Action Plan, such as the action to develop transit speed maps or the development of this policy.
- Promotes transit-supportive infrastructure and transit service improvements as measures to reduce automobile Vehicle Miles Traveled and support improved air quality.

### Chief, Equity and Tribal Affairs

- Supports public engagement efforts.
- Supports Divisions and districts in development of Multilingual and ADA-accessible outreach materials.
- Builds Partnerships with trusted community-based organizations to co-host listening sessions.
- Documents outreach methods and demographic participation data.
- Considers support for veterans and underserved communities"

## **External Affairs**

### Chief, Legislative Affairs

- Facilitates coordination between Caltrans and the state legislature on proposed legislation, including new bills intended to support transit service, expansion and funding.

### Chief, Public Affairs

- In coordination with the District PIO staff, communicates the role and benefits of transit for SHS performance and usefulness to the public.

## ***Applicability***

This policy applies to all Caltrans employees.

  
Dina El-Tawany (Feb 6, 2026 17:32:52 PST)

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Director

02/06/2026

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Date Signed