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Darnell Grisby and Clarissa Reyes Falcon Elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the California Transportation Commission

Sacramento, CA – Today at its January 2025 business meeting, the California Transportation Commission (Commission) elected Darnell Grisby as its Chair and Clarissa Reyes Falcon as its Vice Chair, effective March 1.

“Thank you to my Commission colleagues for placing their confidence in me as we continue to work together towards investing in a transportation system that supports California’s communities and its economy while reducing out-of-pocket costs for its residents,” said Chair-elect Grisby. “I am looking forward to working with Governor Newsom’s Administration, the Legislature, and our state, regional, and local partners to advance transformational multi-modal projects across all of California.”

“I am deeply honored and excited to step into the role of Vice Chair of the Commission. Our work impacts communities across the state, shaping the future of transportation in ways that connect people and improve quality of life.” said Vice Chair-elect Falcon. “I am eager to work alongside my fellow Commissioners and our many partners to tackle the challenges ahead and build a transportation system that is resilient, equitable, and forward-thinking.”



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, where he helped protect public transportation from budget cuts, assisted cities around the nation in 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

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science at UCLA and a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins appointed Clarissa Reyes Falcon to the Commission in September 2021.

Ms. Falcon is the President and Principal Consultant for Falcon Strategies. She previously worked for the California State Senate as a district director and as a public policy analyst for the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation. Ms. Falcon is a board member for the University of California, San Diego Chancellor's Community Advisory Board, the San Diego Union Tribune Community Advisory Board, the South County Economic Development Council, Circulate San Diego, and the Asian Business Association Board.



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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