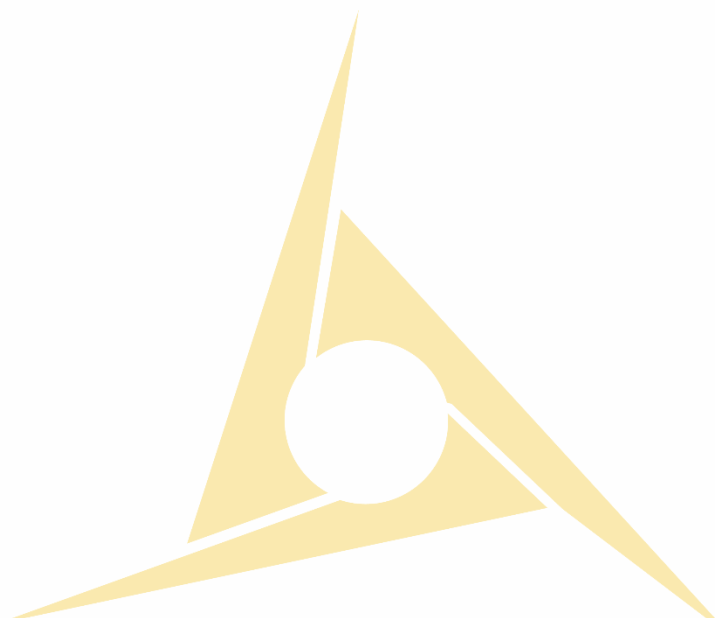


2024 SENATE BILL 1 PROGRAMS TRANSPORTATION EQUITY SUPPLEMENT

This supplement is included in all 2024 SB 1 Program Guidelines
as adopted by the Commission on August 15, 2024





On January 27, 2021, the California Transportation Commission (Commission) adopted its [Racial Equity Statement](#), which states:

The California Transportation Commission recognizes that throughout California's history, improvements to the State's transportation system have disproportionately benefitted some population groups and burdened others. The Commission condemns all forms of racism and is actively working to promote equitable outcomes through our programs, policies, and practices.

In the mid-Twentieth Century, California undertook a major expansion of transportation infrastructure aided by an influx of federal funding. While infrastructure improvements were being planned, designed, and constructed, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color were disenfranchised, lacked voting protections, and were underrepresented in government decision-making. New highways were frequently constructed through predominately Black, Latino, Asian, and low-income neighborhoods to meet the needs of primarily white suburban commuters, and through tribal lands. Racist policies and decisions also influenced the siting of other types of transportation infrastructure, such as commuter railways, and the delivery of transit services. The results of racial segregation and disinvestment of transportation funds in communities of color are still visible in cities today.

Californians who live in historically underserved communities are more likely to be negatively impacted by increased exposure to air pollution and noise from cars, trucks, ships, trains, and aircraft, and struck or killed by drivers when walking and biking. These vulnerable communities may have limited access to safe and affordable transportation options to connect residents to jobs, education, healthcare, and recreation. In addition, people of color may experience diminished safety and comfort while walking, biking, driving, or using public transportation as a result of racial discrimination in enforcement.

The Commission vows to create mobility opportunities for all Californians, especially those from underserved communities, to thrive in all aspects of life. The Commission will:

- Work to build and strengthen relationships with community-based organizations, non-profits, advocacy organizations, and other equity experts and practitioners;
- Empower the Commission's Equity Advisory Roundtable and future related efforts to help inform transportation decision making;
- Strengthen understanding of community transportation needs and challenges through the forthcoming Community Listening Sessions;
- Ensure equity, public health, and robust public engagement via our planning and programming guidelines;
- Provide expanded opportunities for Commissioner and staff training related to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
- Feature equity topics and elevate diverse perspectives in public meetings of the Commission.

We uphold our dedication to serve and improve the quality of life for all Californians by continuing to prioritize transportation equity issues and ensuring all experience safe, affordable, and efficient transportation.



The Commission developed this supplement in collaboration with members from the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee and stakeholders as a resource for applicant agencies preparing project nominations for Senate Bill (SB) 1 Programs (Local Partnership Program, Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, and Trade Corridor Enhancement Program). The Commission endeavors to ensure program policies progress by embedding equity considerations in the project development, nomination, and selection process.

This supplement provides information on key statistics, benefits, and communication strategies that may be used during project development to yield more equitable outcomes. An applicant agency may use the information and strategies presented here to explain how a project advances transportation equity from identification and inclusion to impacts and outcomes:

- How did the agency engage communities in the project study area to identify their needs? Did the agency directly engage with disadvantaged or historically impacted and marginalized groups, including Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, displaced or unhoused persons, individuals with disabilities, seniors and elders, and low-income individuals or communities? How was community feedback incorporated into the project? How did the agency inform communities about whether their feedback was incorporated into the project?
- How did the agency develop the project scope? Was the alternatives analysis developed to include community feedback? Can the agency demonstrate its partnership and collaboration with the disadvantaged or historically impacted and marginalized communities in the project study area?
- How did the agency assess if the project would cause any disparate impacts on the basis of race, color, socioeconomic status, gender, sexuality, disability status, or national origin? If disparate impacts were identified, did the agency consider and incorporate alternate options as applicable?

Equitable practices should be considered through a project's lifecycle (planning, development, and delivery). This can include structural and procedural equity strategies like the examples provided in this supplement. Structural strategies reform planning practices to create inclusive, affordable, and resource-efficient transportation infrastructure, whereas procedural strategies provide special benefits to disadvantaged groups to create fairness in process. Mindful and meaningful inclusion and engagement are critical to successfully advance equity in transportation planning as well as project development and delivery.

Agencies may use this supplement to incorporate equitable corridor improvement strategies and advance projects with more equitable outcomes in their comprehensive multimodal corridor plans, as required in the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program.



Agencies may also consult the [California Strategic Growth Council's Racial Equity Resource Hub](#) to learn more about racial equity best practices (key focus hubs to consider: Creating Your Roadmap, Growing Awareness, Taking Action). The California Strategic Growth Council represents seven state member agencies, including the California State Transportation Agency, and created the Racial Equity Resource Hub to consolidate, streamline, and promote racial equity resources and tools for state agencies' implementation.

A. Example Indicators Used to Identify Disadvantaged or Historically Impacted and Marginalized Groups

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 39711, disadvantaged communities are identified based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria. Disadvantaged communities may include either of the following:

- (1) Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.
- (2) Areas with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment.

Recognizing localized differences helps to identify disadvantaged or historically impacted and marginalized groups. Some example indicators are included for reference below.

- **Median Household Income** – Is less than 80 percent of the statewide median based on the most current Census Tract (ID 140) level data. Communities with a population less than 15,000 may use data at the Census Block Group (ID 150) level. Unincorporated communities may use data at the Census Place (ID 160) level. Data is available at the United States Census Bureau [website](#).
- **California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen)** – A mapping tool developed by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment on behalf of the California Environmental Protection Agency that uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state which can be accessed on the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's [website](#).
 - SB 535 (De León, Chapter 830, Statutes of 2012) established initial requirements for minimum funding levels to “Disadvantaged Communities” for specified programs and required the California Environmental Protection Agency to identify those communities. The [SB 535 Designation of Disadvantaged Communities](#) identifies four types of geographic areas as disadvantaged, including census tracts that receive the highest 25 percent of overall scores in the most recent version of CalEnviroScreen.



- **Healthy Places Index** – Developed by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California, the Healthy Places Index includes a composite score for each census tract in the state. The higher the score, the healthier the community conditions based on 25 community characteristics. The scores are then converted to a percentile to compare it to other tracts in the state. Within the Healthy Places Index, a census tract must be in the 25th percentile or less to qualify as a disadvantaged community. The live map and direct data can be accessed on the California Healthy Places Index [website](#).
 - **Extreme Heat Edition** – Developed by the Public Health Alliance in partnership with the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation, the Healthy Places Index Extreme Heat Edition provides datasets on projected heat exposure for California, place-based indicators measuring community conditions and sensitive populations. It also provides a list of resources and funding opportunities that can be used to address extreme heat. More information about the tool and a live map can both be found on the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation [website](#). This tool complements the [California Heat Assessment Tool](#) funded by the California Natural Resources Agency as part of the state’s Fourth Climate Change Assessment.
- **Native American Tribal Governments** – Projects located within Federally Recognized Tribal Lands (typically within the boundaries of a Reservation or Rancheria) or projects that provide benefits to Native American Tribal Governments and communities.
- **Regional Definition** – Such as “environmental justice communities,” “equity priority communities,” or “communities of concern.” The regional definition must be developed through a robust public outreach process that includes community stakeholders’ input and must be stratified based on severity. A regional definition of disadvantaged communities must be adopted as part of a regular four-year cycle adoption of a regional transportation plan (RTP) or sustainable communities strategy (SCS) by a metropolitan planning organization or regional transportation planning agency per obligations with Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. A regional definition of disadvantaged communities must be used for the region’s broader planning purposes rather than only to apply for SB 1 Program funding.
- **California Department of Transportation’s Transportation Equity Index (EQI)** – A spatial screening tool designed to identify transportation-based priority populations at the census block level. The Transportation Equity Index integrates transportation and socioeconomic indicators into three screens that all reflect low-income status and tribal land status: 1) transportation-based priority populations, 2) traffic exposure, and 3) access to destinations. The live map and detailed use instructions can be accessed on the California Department of Transportation’s [website](#).



- **United States Department of Transportation’s Equitable Transportation Community (ETC) Explorer** – Developed under the [Justice40 Initiative](#), this interactive web application uses census tracts and data to explore the cumulative impacts of transportation underinvestment in the areas of transportation insecurity, environmental burden, social vulnerability, health vulnerability, and climate and disaster risk burden. Census tracts are considered “disadvantaged” in communities if the final index score is greater than the 65th percentile. The map can be accessed on the United States Department of Transportation’s [website](#).
- **Other** – If an applicant agency cannot utilize the aforementioned indicators, it may submit other documentation to demonstrate the project benefits a disadvantaged or historically impacted and marginalized community. Suggested alternatives include:
 - Census data that represents an assessment of the project study area. The agency must submit a quantitative assessment (e.g.: a survey) to demonstrate that the population contained within the project study area boundary includes:
 - A median household income that is at or below 80 percent of the state median household income.
 - A significant number of households at risk of displacement due to cost-of-living burden or project siting.
 - A significant number of households receiving food stamps or public assistance.
 - A significant population of seniors and elderly residents.
 - A significant population of individuals with disabilities or mobility impaired residents.
 - A significant population of single-parent households.
 - A significant population of immigrant or foreign-born households.
 - A significant population of veterans.
 - A significant number of car-less households.
 - A significant number of public transit users (including mobility impaired users).
 - Unemployment measurements.
 - Nearby amenities including shopping centers, health centers, schools, social services, and employment sites, or lack thereof.
 - Traffic safety indicators including collisions and injuries sustained.
 - Community derived safety information and indicators such as high-risk zones for pedestrians and cyclists, illegal dumping hot-spots, or school-safety priority zones
 - Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities as defined by the United States Department of Transportation and identified using the mapping tools provided [here](#).



B. Example Equity Benefits

Advancing equity in transportation results in a more diverse, affordable, accessible, and efficient transportation system for everyone. Equitable transportation projects can:

1. Increase access to social, educational, and economic opportunities and amenities, including shopping centers, health centers, schools, community organizations, museums, social services, transit centers, and employment sites.
2. Reduce travel times and congestion.
3. Reduce pollution.
4. Improve access to active transportation and provide alternatives to automotive options.
5. Improve safety of active transportation and non-motorized modes of travel in the community and the corridor.
6. Enhance opportunities to increase physical activity by encouraging use of active transportation.
7. Enhance opportunities to encourage use of zero-emission modes of travel.
8. Increase access to accessible facilities and infrastructure with first-and-last-mile connectivity to accommodate all types of travelers, especially mobility impaired users.

C. Example Inclusion and Engagement Strategies

Meaningful inclusion and engagement require sustained interactions and consistent, transparent communications to build trust through every step of the project planning process—from first thought to last action. This is especially important in disadvantaged and historically impacted and marginalized communities.

Community inclusion and engagement may be pursued during each stage in the project development and delivery process. An applicant agency should demonstrate how its inclusion and engagement strategies align with the types of strategies included as examples below, describe how recently that engagement has occurred, and how it is actively implemented.

While there are many types of engagement strategies to utilize, multifaceted approaches may yield optimal benefits for communities and applicant agencies. For example, direct engagement strategies, such as meeting with community leaders to develop relationships, can be combined with indirect strategies, such as surveys and polls to understand community needs, in which case both the communities and the applicant agencies benefit from building trust and gaining new insights through collaboration. Potential strategies include:

1. Identify, contact, engage, and include the perspectives of disadvantaged or historically impacted and marginalized groups. Public outreach should include traditional forms of communication, including phone calls, mailers, flyers, and in-person events as disadvantaged and historically impacted and marginalized groups may lack access to computers and the



- Internet. Provide resources in multiple languages and formats based on community needs (e.g., non-native English speakers, or persons living with visual or auditory impairments, etc.).
2. Develop relationships with community-based leaders, groups, or organizations, such as environmental justice groups, religious or spiritual leaders, well-known individual advocates and community organizers, local pedestrian and bike advocacy groups, public school leadership, local transit riders, long-distance commuters (super commuters), linguistically or physically isolated groups, seniors and elders, and youth individuals and groups. This can also include community members who may face barriers including formerly incarcerated persons; undocumented persons; individuals with disabilities; displaced and unhoused persons; and lesbian, gay, transgender, and queer communities.
 3. Collaborate with community-based groups and organizations to establish a local or regional project study area organization or committee (e.g., planning, oversight, advisory, steering, etc.) with decision-making authority to empower community leaders and solicit quality community input and feedback through the project planning process.
 4. Develop a community benefits agreement with a project study area community to strengthen incentives for good-faith community engagement and deliver targeted, meaningful benefits to the community.
 5. Demonstrate how community-identified and community-driven perspectives were solicited and included or integrated into the project purpose and need or scope.
 6. Survey and collect information on non-motorized travel demands and the unmet mobility needs of disadvantaged and historically impacted and marginalized groups identified in the project study area. Use this information to develop transportation improvements to address these needs.
 7. Develop relationships and conduct meaningful engagement with tribal governments and incorporate their feedback into the project planning and delivery process.
 8. Collaborate, fund, or contract with local organizations to support community engagement efforts in the project planning and delivery process.
 9. Prioritize community identified high-need areas, such as those identified through robust community engagement.
 10. Prioritize contracting strategies that benefit disadvantaged or historically impacted and marginalized groups such as the communities identified in this supplement.
 11. Ensure stability in neighborhoods and communities through the successful implementation of short-term and long-term anti-displacement strategies and policies consistent with federal and state law.

D. Example Anti-Displacement Resources

1. [California Department of Housing and Community Development Final 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice](#) – Report detailing impediments to fair housing and recommendations for anti-displacement strategies.



2. [Urban Displacement Project](#) – Comprehensive website with reports, data mapping, and resources for California local, regional, and state entities.
3. [Framework for Evaluating Anti-Displacement Policies](#) – Criteria that can be utilized to better understand the ways that certain policy tools can be used to address the needs of vulnerable groups impacted by displacement.
4. [Greening Without Gentrification](#) – Ongoing study that identifies and classifies parks-related anti-displacement strategies.
5. [Transit-Oriented Development Without Displacement: Strategies to Help Pacoima Businesses Thrive](#) – Research study focused on commercial anti-displacement strategies that can support a predominantly immigrant-owned small business community.