

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 2-3

From: MITCH WEISS, Executive Director

Reference Number: 4.21, Action

Prepared By: Brigitte Driller
Assistant Deputy Director

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Subject: Commission Equity Advisory Roundtable Membership

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the proposed membership list in Attachment A for the Equity Advisory Roundtable (Roundtable), schedule Roundtable meetings, and delegate staff to finalize membership, including in the following areas: disability rights and Native American tribal government.

Issue:

The Commission is convening a Roundtable representing a wide range of equity experts and practitioners from throughout the state. At its August 2020 meeting, the Commission identified membership areas and solicited nominations for Roundtable members. The Commission received over 150 recommendations for individuals to participate. The list of proposed Roundtable members, included in Attachment A, was developed in consultation with key stakeholders, aims to balance geographic diversity, and reflects the subject matter expertise areas the Commission approved in August. Staff has reached out to these individuals to confirm their interest in participating. Staff also reached out to Native American Tribal Government representatives and has been requested to participate in the upcoming regional Tribal Chairpersons' Association meetings to present on the Roundtable and solicit tribal member interest in participating.

While Commission staff has received positive feedback, the pandemic has posed challenges for some. As a result, staff continues to work to fill participants in the following categories: Disability Rights and Native American Tribal Government. With approval of staff's recommendation, Commission staff will fill these categories and finalize Roundtable membership.

Approval of the proposed members will allow staff to move forward with scheduling the Roundtable meetings.

Background:

The Commission is committed to fostering transportation equity, particularly for people of color and underserved communities in California. The Commission announced at its June 2020 meeting that it would be convening an Equity Advisory Roundtable (Roundtable) to elevate diverse perspectives in the transportation process and enhance relationships with non-profit, advocacy, and other local and regional partners. The Roundtable will bring together 15 to 20 subject matter experts and practitioners from throughout the state to collaborate with Commission staff over a series of virtual meetings to develop recommendations to the Commission related to specific equity activities. These activities include: the development of an Equity Advisory Committee; feedback on the forthcoming Community Listening Sessions that the Commission will hold in partnership with Caltrans and the California State Transportation Agency; and feedback on the Commission's draft Public Engagement Guidebook. The Commission is planning to hold five to six virtual Roundtable Meetings between the months of January and June 2021. These meetings will be broadcast to the public.

Equity Advisory Roundtable – Proposed Membership

The list of proposed Roundtable members below was developed in consultation with key stakeholders, aims to balance geographic diversity, and reflects the subject matter expertise areas the California Transportation Commission approved at its August 2020 meeting.

Racial/Social Equity

- Lena Morán-Acereto, Chief Executive Officer/Founder, Bridging Voices Uniendo Voces, LLC
- Rio Oxas, Co-Founder, RAHOK
- Tamika Butler, Esq., Founder + Principal, Tamika L. Butler Consulting, LLC

Environmental Justice

- Ivette Torres, Interim Policy Coordinator, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

Rural Community Issues

- Connie Stewart, Executive Director, California Center for Rural Policy

Housing, Affordable Housing, Homelessness

- Jerard Wright, Government Affairs Director, Greater LA Realtors
- Ruby Acevedo, Staff Attorney, Public Advocates

Native American Tribal Government

- Native American Tribal Government Representative*

Disability Rights, Social Services

- Disability Rights Representative*
- Keith Bergthold, Executive Director, Fresno Metro Ministry

Environment (e.g. Air Quality, Water Quality, Climate Change)

- Nailah Pope-Harden, State Policy Manager, ClimatePlan

Business, Economic Development, Workforce Development

- Jay Cheng, Public Policy Director and Media Relations, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
- Randy Torres-Van Vleck, Director of Policy & Planning, City Heights CDC

Youth

- Jacob Babauta, Student, San Diego State University

Academia

- Carolyn Abrams, Research Data Analyst, UC Davis Center for Regional Change

Other

- Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Director, Common Ground Senior Services
- Jasmine Leek, Founder & Managing Director, Third City Coalition
- Stephanie Ramirez, Associate State Director of Community, AARP California

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