State Updates from Caltrans

Wendy King, Chief, Office of Transit Grants & Contracts
Division of Mass Transportation

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New Rail & Transit Programs

Rail & Transit Programs – Key Movements

Establish New Deputy Director of Transit and Rail Programs

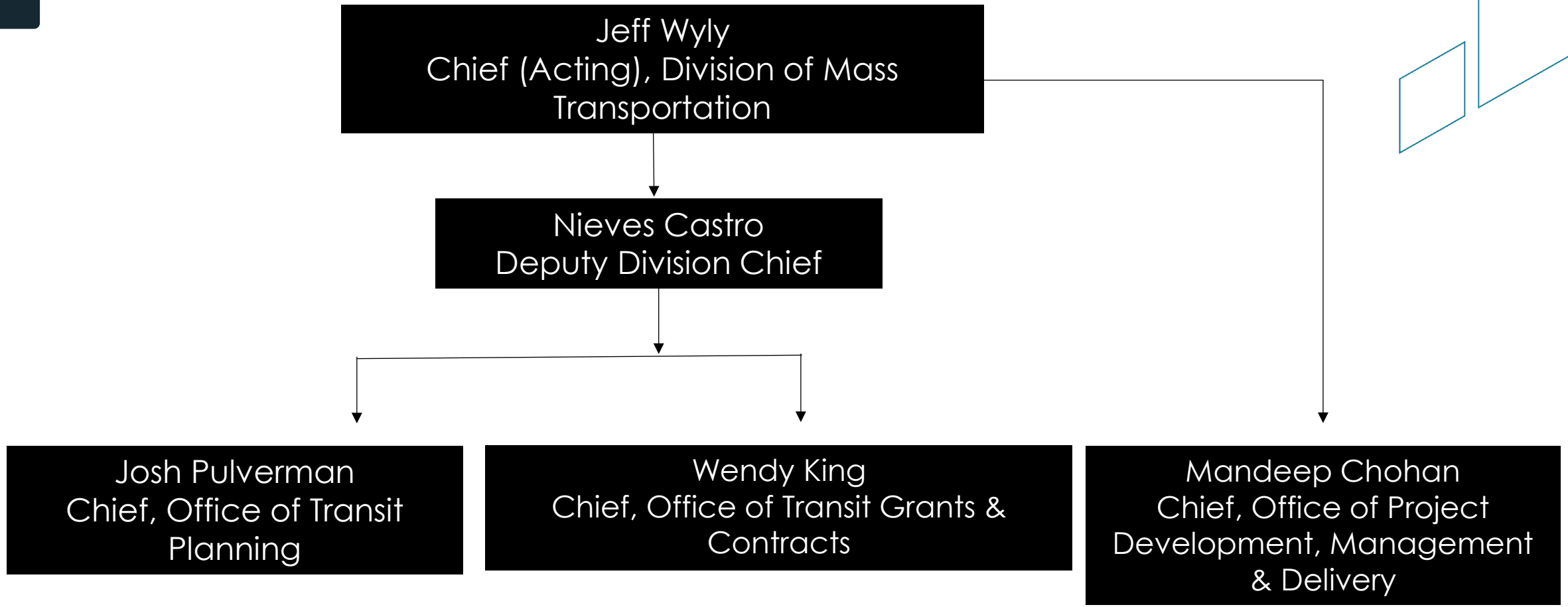
Move Division of Rail into Transit and Rail Programs

Move Data & Digital Services/Cal-ITP into Transit and Rail Programs

Establish the Division of Mass Transportation

Establish a CEA-level manager for Transit and Rail Capital Programs (TIRCP), who will report to the new Deputy Director

New Division of Mass Transportation

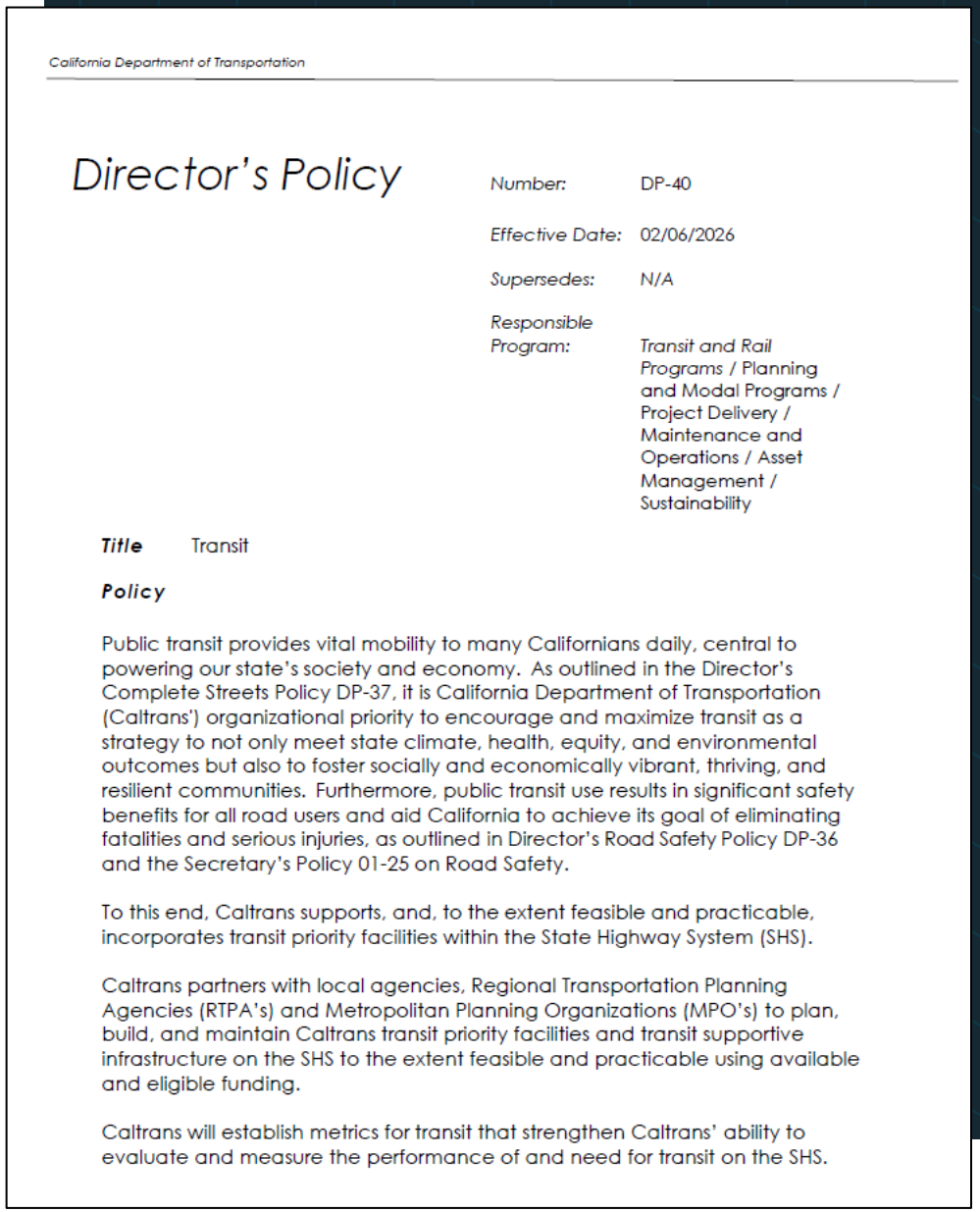


Director's Transit Policy

NEW Director's Policy

Transit

Provides Department-wide direction for Caltrans transit activities. Commits Caltrans to construct and improve transit infrastructure on the State Highway System (SHS). Commits to partnering with transit agencies to develop and implement projects that impact or improve transit on the SHS and to lead innovation of transit data and technology that improves planning and operational analysis.



California Department of Transportation

Director's Policy

Number: DP-40

Effective Date: 02/06/2026

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.

DP-40 Transit Policy Goals

- ✓ Facilitate faster & more efficient transit.
- ✓ Build transit priority infrastructure on the SHS.
- ✓ Build transit supportive facilities on the SHS.
- ✓ Increase transit planning.
- ✓ Develop data to support planning and project delivery.

Transit Planning Updates

TIRCP Cycle 8

- Applications Due: May 18, 2026
- Award Announcement: Expected no later than September 18, 2026

- Through 7 cycles, more than $11 billion in funding has been awarded to 159 projects throughout the state.

Caltrans District Transit Plans

The District Transit Plans will be used as the basis for an initial project list of potential transit projects on the SHS that Caltrans could lead.

Staff will work together to develop initial cost estimates for these projects (including maintenance costs) and will compare that with identified funding.

RELIABILITY & SERVICE: Enhance speed, reliability, and reach of transit services, especially in high-demand and underserved areas.

ACCESS: Support in pedestrian, bicycle, and ADA infrastructure that enables safe access to transit stops and connections to statewide networks.

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE: Improve comfort, safety, and convenience at transit stops through amenities and better passenger information.

RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY: Promote infrastructure that enables zero-emission transit and maintains systems in a state of good repair.

EQUITY: Enhance transit options for underserved and transit-dependent communities.

Transit Advisory Committee

- 20 external members
- Goals
  - Input and recommendations on Caltrans guidance and polices
  - Provide community-based perspective on transit related challenges or opportunities
  - Advise on data collection and best practices to identify and meet transit needs
- Call for applicants due April 30, 2026
- First meeting TBD Q2 2026

Transit Planning Key Upcoming Dates

Action	Completion Date
Transit Implementation Focus Groups	March – May 2026
Transit Implementation Plan	Fall 2026
TIRCP Cyle 8 Applications Due	May 18, 2026
*Project Intake Process/Report	Early 2027
*Transit Guidance with Performance Metrics	Early 2027
District Transit Plans	Winter 2027

*Indicates an item related to SB 960.

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Transit Grants & Contracts Updates

State Funding Updates

Senate Bill 1 (SB1)

- Cycle 4 has been awarded
- Cycle 5 is underway
- Awards announced in May/June 2027

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP – IIP)

- 2026 STIP-IIP (Inter-regional Improvement Plan) Cycle applications has been awarded.
- Cycle 2028 guidelines will be available late this year by CTC

Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP)

- Cap and Invest provides a ceiling of $200 million annually starting FY 26-27
- FY 25-26 Cycle A Allocation Request are Due April 28, 2026
- FY 25-26 Cycle B Allocations should be relased late July 2026
- FY 25-26 Cycle B Allocations due to Caltrans October 2026
- FY 26-27 Updated Program timeline
  - Call for Projects will be July 2027 – October 2027
  - Projects Awarded Funding Distributed March 2028

SB1 State of Good Repair (SGR)

State of Good Repair (SGR) Program provides funding for maintenance, rehabilitation and capital projects

Program promotes "fix-it-first" transit capital projects to avoid more costly replacements later and that reduce greenhouse gases and help achieve the state's environmental goals.

Formula program, approximately $140 million annually to 215 recipients.

Allocated $1 billion through FY 25/26 to over 1,000 projects.

Approximately $700 million of this has been expended.

Reviewed and approved 1,563 total request, resulting in 1,063 funded projects.

466 projects completed.

Next call for project is for Fiscal Year (FY) 26/27 is due in CalSMART September 1, 2026.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funds

FTA 5310 Specialized Transportation

- FY 2025 Call for projects just approved, application to FTA underway
  - $54 million awarded.
  - Severely oversubscribed, $125 million was requested this cycle

- Coordinated plan effort starting May. Please reach out if you need an update

- Mobility Action Plan.
  - Inventory stakeholders, programs and plans serving this target population.
  - Will identify unmet needs, service obstacles and inefficiencies, and compile mobility management best practices from across the US and California that improve mobility management coordination and service delivery.
  - Goal: a Coordinated Mobility Management Action Plan for California that improves safety, efficiency, and customer satisfaction.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funds

FTA 5311 Rural Formula Funds

- FY 25 Program of Projects being generated for Grant Application
- FY 26 Call for projects soon
- Reassigning remaining COVID relief funds

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5339a Rural Funding - $8 million available.

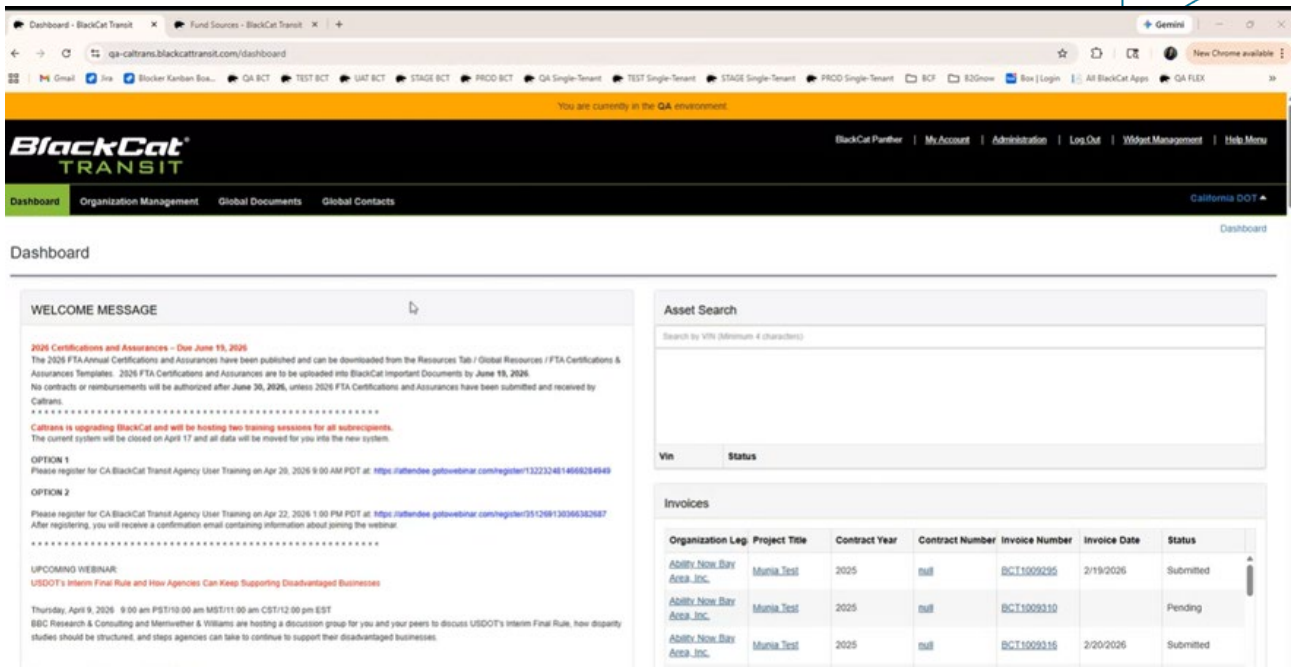
- FY 26 Call for projects soon

FTA 5307 and 5339 Small Urban funds

- Have reached out to MPOs to determine the region's splits
- Obligate those funds

BlackCat Flex

- Caltrans is upgrading BlackCat and will be hosting two training sessions for all subrecipients.
  - April 20 9 am
  - April 22 1 pm
- The current system will be closed on April 17 and all data will be moved into the new system.
- Enhanced features



Additional Items

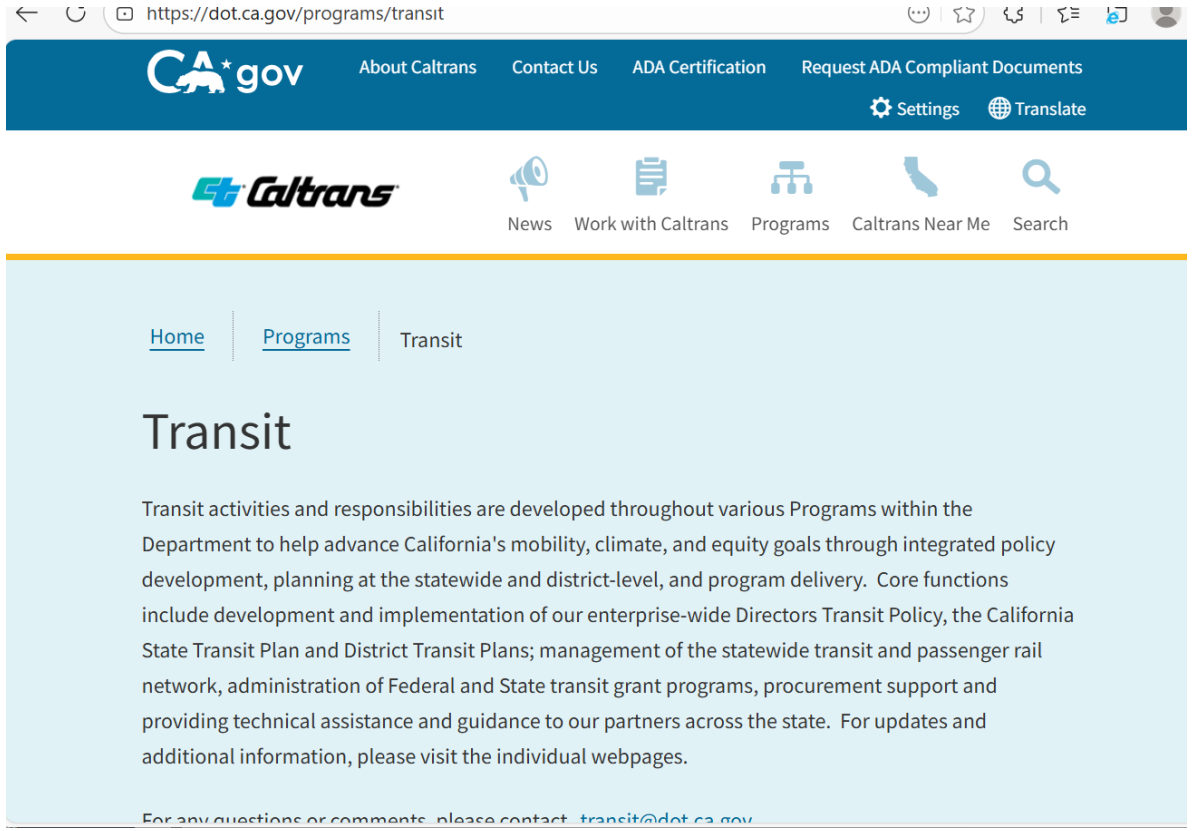
- Drug and Alcohol Oversight contract
- Next Rural Transit Assistance Program contract
- Working with public entities to aid transit operators with the adoption of zero-emission technology
  - Resources can be found on this site: Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) Efforts | Caltrans
  - Developing a zero-emission toolkit that transit operators can utilize will be completed by the end of this month
  - Established a contract to examine California's hydrogen network and develop a zero-emission transit toolkit that will help decision makers adopt a zero-emission pathway.

Additional Items

Updated website: [Transit | Caltrans]

State Management Plan

- Provides essential information about implementing FTA grant programs administered by Caltrans
- Undergoing internal review
- Will open for external comments in a few weeks



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Questions?

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