

Caltrans Director's Policy for Public Transit – Policy Framework



JANUARY 27, 2025

Agenda Item 3a Attachment A

Regional Network Management Council

What is a Caltrans Director's Policy?

- Provides Department-wide direction for Caltrans strategy and activities
- High-level, long-range, and timeless
- Signed by the Director

Why a Caltrans Transit Policy?

- Caltrans projects and activities facilitated by a strong transit policy will help the state achieve:
 - Better access and mobility for all
 - A safer transportation system
 - Climate change mitigation
- Transit supports broader statewide policy and legislative goals



SB 960 – Transit Policy Statute

- SB 960 requires Caltrans to **include complete streets and transit assets, including transit priority facilities**, in state highway planning
- This bill requires Caltrans to **develop and adopt a transit policy**
- Transit targets will be required starting in the 2028 State Highway System Management Plan (SHSMP)
- Caltrans design guidance for transit priority facilities is also required by 2028

Caltrans' Existing Relationship with Transit

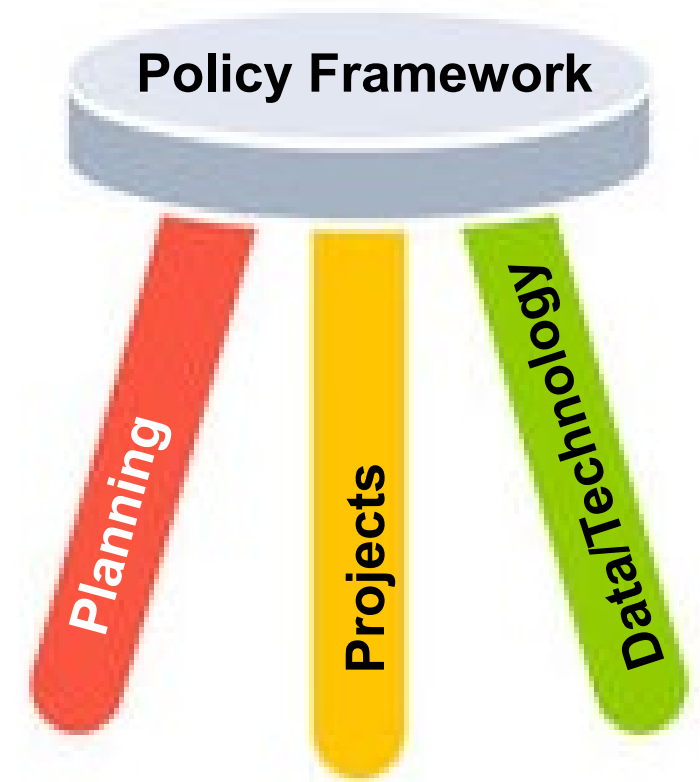
- Caltrans is not a transit provider, but does support transit agencies
- Steward of the state highway system, which transit uses extensively
- Transit agencies' facilities on state highways are treated as encroachments, like driveways

Policy Framework – Enhancing Caltrans Transit Role

- Embrace “host railroad” role for transit
- Create mechanisms for streamlining, directing existing funds to, and tracking results of projects that improve transit
- Address what Caltrans can directly control and support for transit

Policy Framework – Proposed Caltrans Actions

- **Planning:** Develop, update, and implement plans for passenger travel that identify infrastructure improvements to optimize the performance of existing and future transit services
- **Projects:** Deliver infrastructure projects on state highways that facilitate shorter travel times for and improved facilities supporting public transit services
- **Data and Technology:** Establish versatile targets for transit service levels, facilities, infrastructure, technology, and data



What are Transit Priority Facilities?

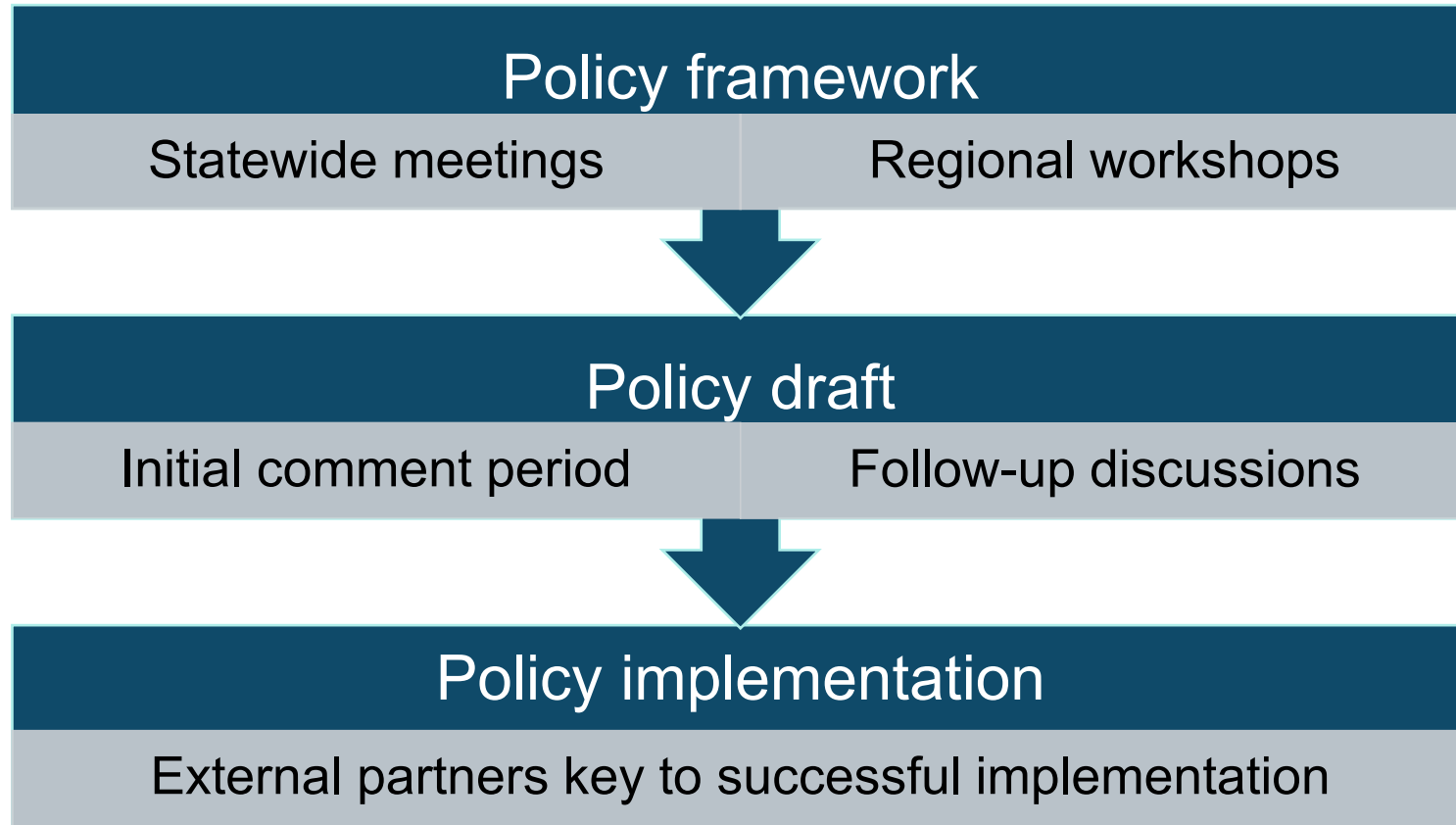


- **Working Caltrans definition:** Infrastructure that makes road-based transit service faster and more reliable.
 - Includes Transit Only Lanes, Queue Jump Lanes, Traffic Signal Priority, Bus Bulb-Outs, and Bus on Shoulder Lanes
- Facilities are available for use by emergency vehicles
- Can benefit bus transportation beyond public transit

Schedule for Caltrans Transit Policy Development

		2025												2026
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Stakeholder collaboration on policy framework	Statewide meeting and regional workshops with industry stakeholders													
Caltrans preparation of draft policy and implementation plan	Internal discussions													
Stakeholder collaboration on policy draft	External discussion/comment period for draft													
	Incorporate external comments on draft													
	Statewide follow-up discussions with externals													
Caltrans approval of final draft	Internal discussions													
Policy publication and implementation kick-off, in collaboration with stakeholders	Multi-faceted engagement													

Policy Stakeholder Collaboration



Caltrans Transit Policy Implementation Plan

- Simultaneous to the development of the transit policy, Division of Transportation Planning (DOTP) staff will work with Design, Traffic Operations, Asset Management, and the Districts to develop a proposed implementation plan
- Items for development:
 - SHSMP targets
 - Priority transit facilities
 - Encroachment
 - Coordination with CHP

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