



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

## **New Actions Report Unveiled by the California Transit Association to Impact Equity in Transit Arena**

### ***Key Recommendations Center Racial Justice, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Within the Association's Policy Positions, Advocacy Endeavors, Educational Offerings & Governance Structure***

**Sacramento, CA** – The last year heightened the nation's focus on racial injustice and historically under-acknowledged challenges related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic – which caused unprecedented drops in public transit ridership, abrupt school shutdowns, organizational and personal financial hardships, and most of all, the tragic deaths of over 63,000 Californians – the inequities in our society led to demonstrations throughout the nation.

Although California's transit agencies and many private sector businesses were in financial survival mode throughout 2020, the members of the California Transit Association (the Association) understood the importance of taking immediate action to support marginalized and vulnerable communities across our state to address these inequities.

The Association, representing over 240 public and private sector members in the transportation industry, formed the [Task Force for an Inclusive, Diverse and Equitable Association \(IDEA Task Force\)](#) to develop a plan to guide the Association's inclusion, equity, and diversity efforts and provide resources to its public transit agency and business members. The 17-member IDEA Task Force, chaired by **Beverly Greene**, Executive Director of External Affairs, Marketing & Communications at the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District and vice chaired by **Alva Carrasco**, Assistant VP of Transit and Rail National Business Line at WSP, developed a new actions report to baseline and advance the Association's impact in the transit arena.

"The IDEA Task Force was charged with identifying opportunities to center social and racial justice, inclusion, diversity, and equity within the Association's policy positions, advocacy endeavors, educational offerings, and governance structure," said **Kate Breen**, Chair of the Association's Executive Committee and Director of Government Affairs at San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency. "The incredible leadership, expertise, and commitment demonstrated by the IDEA Task Force and the recommendations born out of it will further the Association's development of a healthy, effective, and vibrant public transit presence throughout California."

“Transportation infrastructure and mobility services have a history that includes displacement, the physical dividing of communities, and the unequal distribution of benefits and impacts,” said Greene. “The IDEA Task Force is uniquely positioned to impact equity within the transit arena and to advance racial equity and social justice in areas that connect to our work. Public transit exists to connect communities, and we’ve identified and prioritized equity in areas outside of our traditional work but within the communities we serve.”

“We have specific, measurable goals, which include prioritizing racial justice, transportation equity, and the furtherance of workforce equity in the Association's educational content delivery plan; review of committee membership to ensure staff from diverse backgrounds participate in standing committees; and incorporating equity analyses when reviewing future legislative bill proposals considered for inclusion in the State and Federal Legislative programs,” said Greene.

“The California Transit Association is committed to a vision for public transportation that advances inclusion, diversity and equity within our industry and that furthers social and racial justice in our broader society,” said the Association’s Executive Director Michael Pimentel. “Our member organizations’ core function is to connect people to opportunities through transportation infrastructure and mobility services. This report charts an actionable path forward to support transformational change in our society — connecting to and extending beyond merely providing transit service — to actualize meaningful impacts in the fight against injustice in our society.”

Read the full report: "[Actions for a More Inclusive, Diverse, and Equitable Association](#)"

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