

November 16, 2021

Subject: California Transportation Assessment (AB 285 Report)

Reporting Period: 2019 - 2021

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Summary

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) has been directed by the Legislature to assess transportation planning and funding in California pursuant to AB 285 (Friedman, Chapter 605, Statutes of 2019) and deliver its findings in 2022.

Background

California has adopted ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and meeting these commitments requires reductions in per capita vehicles miles traveled (VMT) as well as cleaner fuels and vehicles. Actions taken to reduce GHG and VMT must also support other State priorities, including those outlined in California Transportation Plan: safety, climate, equity, accessibility, quality of life and public health, economy, environment, and infrastructure.

Despite the establishment of specific commitments and targets in state and regional plans, California and its regions are not on track to meet their climate targets. Additionally, historically disadvantaged communities, including low-income communities and communities of color, face significant transportation burdens and have insufficient access to reliable and affordable transportation options. The combination of State and regional transportation planning and spending decisions result in a transportation system that fails to meet everyone's needs. This report will explore the gaps and alignments between the visions put forth in State and regional plans and the transportation projects that we collectively build, maintain, and operate.

A team of researchers from the University of California Institute of Transportation Studies (UC ITS) is producing five working papers assessing which aspects of our transportation planning and funding systems move us towards and away from achieving our shared goals. The five papers will focus on institutional structure, State plans, regional plans, funding programs, and legal issues.

The project and research team are sharing the draft report findings for the first time at the November 16, 2021 SGC meeting and will deliver a report to the State Legislature in early 2022. SGC has coordinated and will continue to work across key State agencies and engage with external stakeholders throughout the process.

For members of the public who would like to submit comments on the California Transportation Assessment: please join the November 16 Council meeting and/or email your comments to transportation@sgc.ca.gov. Comments received by December 1 will inform SGC's report to the State Legislature.

Discussion Questions

1. What are your reactions to and takeaways from the material presented here?
2. What long-term common goals should be prioritized in transportation decision-making, and how can we best advance those priorities?
3. What additional questions and needs does this report raise and how can SGC best address them? What next steps should SGC take after submitting this report to the Legislature?

Attachments

Attachment 1: SGC Presentation

Attachment 2: UC ITS Draft Findings