

Date: February 24, 2022

Subject: California Transportation Assessment (AB 285 Report)
Reporting Period: November 2021 – February 2022
Staff Lead: Egon Terplan, Senior Advisor for Economic Development & Transportation

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 delivered 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) produced 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 focus on institutional structure, State plans, regional plans, funding programs, and legal issues.

Stakeholder Engagement Process

The project and research team shared the draft report findings for the first time at the November 16, 2021 SGC meeting and delivered 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 February 24 Council meeting and/or email your comments to transportation@sgc.ca.gov. Comments will inform SGC's next steps.

Upcoming Engagement and Efforts in 2022

The findings and recommendations in the legislative report generated significant discussion among advocates, academics, external stakeholders, and agency partners. SGC will be conducting engagement with key stakeholders to allow for more assessment and discussion on strategies to address the recommendations and challenges identified in the report.

If you would like to submit a letter on the report's findings, please email them to transportation@sgc.ca.gov.

Discussion Questions

What kinds of improvements to our transportation system will help support your agency/organization's priorities?

Which recommendations from the UC ITS final summary report do you think should be advanced or further explored?

What additional questions and needs does this report raise and how can SGC best address them?

Attachments:

Attachment A: SGC Foreword and UC ITS Summary Report

