

# Agenda

## Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Transportation Equity Sub-Working Group Kick-Off Meeting May 5, 2022

2:00-3:00 PM

Meeting called by: CalSTA/Caltrans

Virtual Meeting: [TEAMS](#)

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**Working Group**      **2:00-2:05 PM**  
**Update**

Amar Azucena Cid, Program Manager, Office of Race and Equity (CORE), Caltrans

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**IIJA Tribal Survey**      **2:05-2:15 PM**  
**Results**

Lonora Graves, Branch Lead, Native American Liaison Branch, CORE, Caltrans

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**IIJA Sub Working**      **2:15-2:25**  
**Group Local Hire**

David DeLuz, Deputy Director, Civil Rights, Caltrans

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**Reconnecting**      **2:25-2:55 PM**  
**Communities**  
**Discussion**

Jimmy Tran, Acting Reconnecting Communities Program Coordinator  
Caltrans

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**Next Steps**      **2:55-3:00 PM**

**Additional Information:**

- [Advancing Effective Stewardship of Taxpayer Resources and Outcomes in the Implementation of the IIJA](#)
- Justice 40 Screening Tool: <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/>



# IIJA EQUITY SUB- WORKING GROUP

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MEETING #2

MAY 2022

# OVERVIEW

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- Recap Meeting 1
- Tribal IIJA Sub-Working Group Inclusion
- IIJA Local Hire Working Group Update
- Reconnecting Communities Program Update and Discussion

# MEETING 1 RECAP

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- Coordination and consistency with equity efforts
  - Identification
  - Definitions
- Rural and Tribal inclusion
- Sharing and collaborating with other groups, organizations, and committees for added transparency
- Programs and projects are community-driven and responsive to community needs



# IIJA TRIBAL SUB-WORKING GROUP SURVEY RESULTS

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- 11 responses total
  - Only 1 was from tribal representative
- 72% indicated their interest and willingness to participate in an IIJA Tribal Transportation Sub-Working Group
- Expected outcomes from the Sub-Working Group include:
  - 1) Engagement with Tribes, CalSTA, CTC, and Caltrans
  - 2) IIJA Equity Implementation Framework
  - 3) Stakeholder collaboration
  - 4) Policy Development

# TRIBAL SUB-WORKING GROUP SURVEY

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## **Top four tribal rep/advocate priorities for implementing IJA include:**

1. Tribal project prioritization, collaboration, and implementation
2. Technical Assistance/ Strengthening Tribal Capacity
3. Equity based scoring rubrics for funding prioritization
4. Improved Tribal Consultation and Inclusion

## **Most significant opportunities that IJA funding can address:**

- Fixing neglected tribal transportation infrastructure
- Increased collaboration between Tribes and transportation agencies
- Technical assistance and support for Tribal governments
- Expanding Broadband and ZEV infrastructure



# TRIBAL SUB-WORKING GROUP SURVEY

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## Highest Priority IIJA Programs Areas for Tribal Governments

- Safety
  - Including the TTP Safety Set Aside and Safe Streets and Roads for All)
- Tribal Transportation Program
- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
- Climate Change Resiliency Program
- Tribal Transportation Facility Bridge Program
- Rural Surface Transportation Grants
- Other discretionary program funding that list Tribal governments as eligible applicants

# TRIBAL SUB-WORKING GROUP SURVEY

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## Comprehensive inclusion of tribal transportation needs:

- Ensure that tribal government and tribal community representatives are involved with other agencies as the IIJA is implemented.
- Increase funding for tribal engagement, and make sure collaboration opportunities start early and are ongoing throughout policy/project life
- Evaluate discretionary program criteria to make sure Tribes can reasonably compete (establish core principals for IIJA funding).
- Expand technical assistance and support for tribal governments related to IIJA delivery





# IIJA LOCAL HIRE SUB WORKING GROUP UPDATE

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- Sub-working group Leads: David DeLuz (Civil Rights), Erin Holbrook (Legal) and Ray Hopkins (Project Delivery/Construction)
- Exploring innovative ways to provide equal and open opportunities to participate on IIJA funded or sponsored projects, such as local hire/contracting.
- Action Plan, Recommendations through collaboration with Caltrans, local agency partners and other stakeholders (NPOs, Advocacy Groups)
- Next Meeting Scheduled for mid-May 2022

# Short-term Reconnecting Communities Work

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JIMMY TRAN

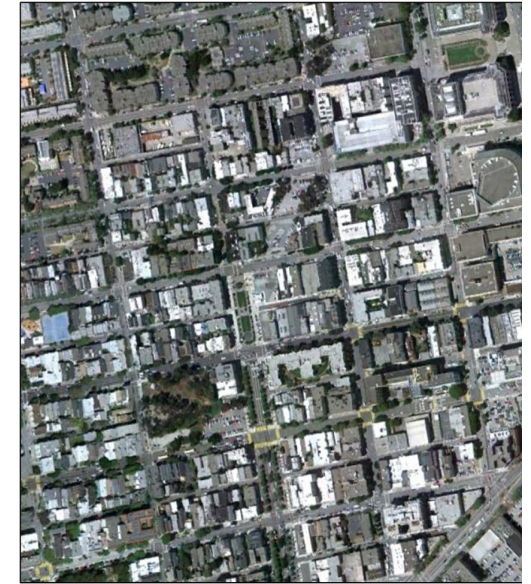
RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM COORDINATOR

# Reconnecting Communities Context

- **1956 Federal-Aid Highway Act**
- **The impacts on communities today**
  - Isolated communities and lack of economic opportunities
  - Limited access to housing, jobs, and open spaces
  - Air quality, asthma, and cardiovascular disease
- **Efforts to address past harms**
  - I-490 Inner Loop in Rochester, New York
  - Octavia Boulevard in San Francisco, California



**Before** – Central Freeway in 1987



**After** – Replaced by Octavia Boulevard in 2002

# Federal Reconnecting Communities

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## Background

- Authorized in 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- New, first-of-its-kind federally-funded program to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure

## Funding Availability

- \$1B of discretionary program; Anticipated spring 2022

## Purpose

- To reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure through planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure to address legacy impacts





# Competitive Grants

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## Competitive Grants

Competitive application for Federal  
Reconnecting Communities Program

Notice of Funding Opportunity  
(NOFO) expected June 2022

Eligible applicants



# Interim Guidance

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SPECIFIC TO CALTRANS' APPROACH TO  
RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES

# Timeline for Interim Guidance

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## May-June 2022

- Meet w/external partners
- Develop draft interim guidance

## July-August 2022

- Meet w/external partners
- Develop final draft interim guidance

## Sept-October 2022

- Edit draft interim guidance
- Release final interim guidance



# Reconnecting Communities Interim Guidance Topics

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## Background

- Where transportation policy and structural inequities meet
- Past harms
- Existing efforts nationwide

## Overview of Federal Program

- \$ that is available
- Goals & Outcomes

## Equitable Community Engagement

- Building trust
- Ongoing vs. one-time

## Community Definitions

- Criteria/Metrics
- Impacted by highways
- Existing definitions (e.g., Disadvantaged Communities, low-income)

## Possible Planning Efforts

- Meeting with the communities
- Understanding community needs
- Planning studies for removing, retrofitting or different use of facility

## Possible Capital Improvements

- Based on community identified needs
- Partnering process

## Funding Streams

- Federal
- Proposed state program pending budget approval (program guidelines separate from Caltrans interim guidance)

## Issues introduced in interim guidance:

- Affordable housing
- Minimize displacement
- Match Funding

# Discussion

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01

What criteria should be used to identify communities?

02

What are your priorities for capital construction improvements?



# Contact

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Jimmy Tran

**Reconnecting Communities Program Coordinator**

Office of Active Transportation & Complete Streets

Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning

[Jimmy.b.tran@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Jimmy.b.tran@dot.ca.gov)

# NEXT STEPS

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- IIJA Working Group Leads Update
- Draft Equity Principles Document



# THANK YOU

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- Questions/Comments?
- [RaceAndEquity@dot.ca.gov](mailto:RaceAndEquity@dot.ca.gov)