

Per California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 548.5, the following information will be posted to CalHR's Career Executive Assignment Action Proposals website for 30 calendar days when departments propose new CEA concepts or major revisions to existing CEA concepts. Presence of the department-submitted CEA Action Proposal information on CalHR's website does not indicate CalHR support for the proposal.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Date

May 2, 2016

2. Department

California Transportation Commission

3. Organizational Placement (Division/Branch/Office Name)

Executive Branch

4. CEA Position Title

Deputy Director - Transportation Planning

5. Summary of proposed position description and how it relates to the program's mission or purpose. (2-3 sentences)

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) is requesting the conversion of the civil service classification, Assistant Executive Director (AED), to a CEA, Deputy Director for Transportation Planning, to independently manage and develop statewide and regional transportation planning guidance and policies for mission driven programs, and to represent the Commission in its expanded role of coordinating investment decisions that would facilitate the State's and regional agencies' ability to meet the mandated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions and other statewide goals related to housing, transportation, public health, freight, and air quality, among others. This request is also consistent with the State's efforts to streamline the classification system.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Executive Director and Chief Deputy Director (CEA C)

7. Relationship with Department Director (Select one)

- Member of department's Executive Management Team, and has frequent contact with director on a wide range of department-wide issues.
- Not a member of department's Executive Management Team but has frequent contact with the Executive Management Team on policy issues.

(Explain): This position will report to the Commission's Executive Director and also the Chief Deputy Director on a regular basis.

8. Organizational Level (Select one)

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th (mega departments only - 17,001+ allocated positions)

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the CEA position? Be specific and provide examples.

Serves as the principle policy maker for initiating and overseeing development and implementation of policies and guidelines related to the long term vision for California's transportation system which will support and guide transportation investment decisions.

Independently analyzes and disseminates the input provided by the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and other state agencies, regional agencies, local jurisdictions, transportation agencies, legislative staff and other interested parties, develops policies and guidelines and presents recommended policies and guidelines at public hearings, Commission meetings and various other local and regional meetings, responds to issues raised, determines the validity of the issues, and revises the policies and/or guidelines as appropriate.

Advises the Commission on environmental impacts, alternatives and mitigations of a project being considered for future funding and develops policy recommendations in consultation with federal, state, local, and regional agencies to streamline the environmental process to ensure timely delivery of both critical and routine transportation improvement projects.

Monitors and advises the Commission on federal and state legislation that may impact transportation planning in California and/or the Commission's programs and planning guidance, providing recommendations to the Commission on potential legislative action.

Reviews, analyzes, and makes policy recommendations at the highest level on the preparation of regional plans, the California Transportation Plan (CTP), the California Freight Mobility Plan (CFMP), the Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP), the National Freight Network and Strategic Plan (NFNSP), California Rail Plan (CRP), the California Aviation System Plan (CASP), and statewide transportation modeling guidelines.

Forms and leads an advisory committee to revise modeling guidance that includes representatives of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), Caltrans, Air Resources Board (ARB), and organizations knowledgeable in the creation and use of travel demand models, local governments, and organizations concerned with the impacts of transportation investments on communities and the environment.

Requests and reviews reports of Caltrans and of other entities which pertain to transportation planning issues and concerns that the Commission determines need special study. Formulates policy recommendations based on such reports.

Assumes leadership role in advising on actions necessary to ensure Commission programs and processes are consistent with and integrate statewide sustainability, land use/housing, and other environmental goals and policies.

While the Deputy Director does not supervise a large staff, the Deputy Director is required to work with and utilize Caltrans staff to accomplish assigned responsibilities. Specifically, Government code section 14512 states "The Commission may request the department [Caltrans]...to perform such work as the Commission deems necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities. The Commission shall consider the expertise and resources available to the department for the purpose of carrying out its duties and responsibilities." As a result the Deputy Director functions more like an agency Deputy Secretary than the supervisor of a large staff at a state department.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

10. How critical is the program's mission or purpose to the department's mission as a whole? Include a description of the degree to which the program is critical to the department's mission.

- Program is directly related to department's primary mission and is critical to achieving the department's goals.
- Program is indirectly related to department's primary mission.
- Program plays a supporting role in achieving department's mission (i.e., budget, personnel, other admin functions).

Description: The Deputy Director is the principal policy advisor for statewide transportation planning issues. The responsibilities of the Deputy Director have increased considerably since the establishment of the AED classification in 1979, due in part to the national, state, and regional sensitivity to GHG emissions, bringing transportation planning to the forefront of meeting the requirements of AB 32 the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Nunez, Statutes of 2006), SB 375 Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (Steinberg, Statutes of 2008), and SB 391 California Transportation Plan (Liu, Statutes of 2009).

Historically, integration of state sustainability goals and objectives was not a primary transportation planning requirement. As such, transportation planning guidance at the state level was not intentionally coordinated with other state agencies such as ARB and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to assure that state air quality goals and the Regional Housing Need Allocations (RHNA), and other related sustainability goals were incorporated into regional transportation plans. Consequently, SB 1039 (Steinberg, Statutes of 2012) was enacted modifying the Governor's Reorganization Plan No. 2 (GRP 2) by requiring HCD, Caltrans, and the Commission to coordinate state housing and transportation policies and programs to help achieve state and regional planning priorities and to maximize co-benefits of infrastructure investments.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

11. Describe what has changed that makes this request necessary. Explain how the change justifies the current request. Be specific and provide examples.

The Deputy Director serves as a high level policy maker and is required to work alongside regional agency executive directors and other high level officials within and outside state government. Given that MPOs are now adopting regional transportation plans under the recent GHG rules as noted in #21, and Commission guidance, a high-level authoritative position is necessary now more than ever to assess existing guidance for determination of revisions required. This is especially true in light of recent litigation which proposes the environmental documents prepared for regional transportation plans adopted by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, San Diego Association of Governments, and the Merced County Council of Governments do not meet SB 375 statutes.

The role of the Commission and the Deputy Director has significantly evolved over the years. Since the civil service AED classification was created, the Commission has been charged with adopting the CTP and recommending policy direction on statewide freight issues following the adoption of the CFMP in December 2014 and the issuance of Governor's Executive Order B-32-15 in July 2015 regarding the California Sustainable Freight Action Plan (CSFAP). These functions require the Deputy Director to have specialized and diverse policy making skills and abilities and proven knowledge in developing and implementing multimodal transportation planning related policies.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE

12. Provide 3-5 specific examples of policy areas over which the CEA position will be the principle policy maker. Each example should cite a policy that would have an identifiable impact. Include a description of the statewide impact of the assigned program.

Given that MPOs are now adopting regional transportation plans under the recent GHG rules and Commission guidance, a high-level authoritative position is necessary now more than ever to assess existing guidance for determination of revisions required.

Policy decisions and recommendations the Deputy Director makes cover a broad spectrum from preparation of regional plans to statewide plans such as the CTP, ITSP, the CFMP, and other plans as noted in question #20. . The Deputy Director's comments and recommendations to these plans may directly affect the expenditure of state, federal and local funds.

The Commission is required by California Government Code Section 65080(d) to adopt guidelines for the development of regional transportation plans by regional agencies. The Deputy Director serves as the principal lead in the oversight during the regular update of these guidelines.

SB 486 (2014) requires the Commission to adopt for the first time guidelines for Caltrans' preparation of the CTP. This new role for the Commission was further defined by SB 64 which requires the Deputy Director to prepare specific, action-oriented, and pragmatic recommendations for transportation system improvements which shall be reported to the Legislature. The Deputy Director will play a lead role to ensure these guidelines are developed to address a wide-range of key statewide transportation issues and to ensure that a large group of stakeholders are engaged in the process.

Additionally, the Commission has also increased involvement on statewide freight issues following Executive Order B-32-15. The Executive Order directed several state agencies to develop the CSFAP aimed at making California's freight industry cleaner and more efficient. Given the Commission's role on funding allocation, the Commission was tasked with completing a policy paper on freight funding as part of this overall effort. Along with other state agencies and the freight industry, the Commission will continue to be an active participant on addressing the implementation of the plan and playing an increasing role on statewide freight issues. The Deputy Director has been the Commission's representative in these discussions.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

13. What is the CEA position's scope and nature of decision-making authority?

The Deputy Director serves a critical role in developing sensitive and complex policies and guideline recommendations for advising the Chief Deputy Director, Executive Director and Commission. The Commission requires that the Deputy Director possess the necessary skills and expertise to work alongside Executive Directors of State, Region, Local and other entities to ensure a long-term statewide transportation vision is met. Policy decisions and recommendations will directly affect the state's ability to meet the mandated GHG emissions reductions and other statewide goals related to housing, transportation, public health and air quality. Therefore the consequences of error are very high if recommendations developed and presented by the position are not competent.

14. Will the CEA position be developing and implementing new policy, or interpreting and implementing existing policy? How?

This position will have direct responsibility for developing and implementing transportation policies of statewide significance. The Deputy Director, as the subject matter expert, is directly responsible to the Executive Director and Chief Deputy Director for the successful development and implementation of planning guidelines and policies that support the mission of the Commission and the delivery of statewide transportation programs. Lack of accurate policy and guideline development could result in violation of law, potential loss of federal funding, regional/local transportation agencies not receiving project approval and/or funding, and delay in project delivery.

The Deputy Director's recommendations and advice significantly impact the state's transportation system at a statewide, regional and local level, as well as the state's economy, and services to the public. As a result, the position is an ongoing critical and vital component in support of California's transportation system. Failure to perform this function impacts the Commission's mission.