



## Director's Message

Greetings,

You may notice something has changed on this page.

Allow me to introduce myself: I am Laurie Berman, the recently appointed Director of Caltrans.

As director, I intend to work with you productively as an accessible and dependable partner. I will foster the innovation and maintain the reforms adopted by my predecessor, Malcolm Dougherty, that have so expertly positioned Caltrans for success as California makes the most significant investment in transportation in generations.

As you can imagine, a great deal has changed since my days as junior civil engineer in the 1980s. Back then, few would have believed that cars would drive themselves, electric vehicles would become a viable alternative or that smartphones would have changed the way we get to the airport.

Of course, no one would have predicted the enormous backlog of deferred maintenance that would build up during decades of stagnant or declining revenue. Or that climate change would become a major factor in transportation planning and design.

And I doubt anyone would have guessed that in 2017 we would get a funding and reform package robust enough to sustain a decade of desperately needed improvements.

SB 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act, not only provides resources, of course. It also raises the bar on transparency and accountability, while encouraging partnerships at every level.

And since being a good partner involves being a good listener, I want to ask for your opinion right now.

Please take a minute with our quick online Stakeholder Survey. And encourage your colleagues to do the same.

The [survey](#) will run until April 15. Once we've analyzed the results, we'll share them here in the *Mile Marker*, just as we do with the rest of our performance measurements. It's available

at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTPartner](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTPartner).

Looking forward to working with you,

Laurie Berman  
Director of Caltrans

**Cover:** The Thomas Fire approaches State Route 150 in Ojai, Ventura County, obscuring the sun and casting a smoky glow over the landscape. Wildfires will be a more frequent event in some parts of California as the effects of climate change unfold through the century, according to new Caltrans study. Photo by Bob Kilpatrick, Caltrans Maintenance Superintendent, District 7