Shared Mobility Policy Framework and Workshop
Understanding the Future of Transportation: Best Practices and Model Policies for Shared Mobility

WHAT IS THE NEED?

California has experienced significant population and economic growth in recent years, particularly in its urban regions, straining the transportation system and resulting in excess congestion, pollution, and vehicle miles traveled (VMT). California needs smart policy solutions that take advantage of the State’s growing shared mobility services to tackle these transportation problems. Shared mobility—the shared use of a vehicle, bicycle, or other low-speed mode—is an innovative transportation strategy that enables short-term access to transportation modes on an “as-needed” basis.

Given the growing range of innovative mobility options, local, regional, and state governments are in need of a framework for categorizing shared mobility policies by: definition; type (e.g., parking, insurance, safety); mode (e.g., carsharing, bikesharing, ridesharing); and governance (e.g., local, regional, state, federal). What are the best practices across modes, policy, and level of governance? How can these services maximize their social and environmental impacts? What type of policy framework is needed to evolve and understand these services over time and in light of other technological changes (e.g., vehicle automation and electrification) and anticipated developments (e.g., smart growth, demographics changes, etc.)?

Additionally, while shared mobility is growing, traditional transportation planning tools are not yet able to capture the direct changes that shared mobility has on transportation networks nor on policy strategies (e.g., access to curb space, parking, pricing, etc.).
WHAT ARE WE DOING?

This project will first catalog and characterize existing shared mobility policies and best practices on a number of dimensions. This will be completed through (1) a literature and policy review; (2) small group discussions with local and regional governments; (3) surveying of local governments and partners; (4) developing a policy playbook; and (5) webinar sessions with mobility thought-leaders.

The research team will then convene a workshop to help policymakers and planners, as well as other key stakeholders, understand how current and future impacts of shared mobility can be captured, measured and reflected in planning tools. The workshop will create a greater understanding of the possible policy environments (scenarios) in which the tools will be deployed, as well as the data needed to incorporate shared modes, including shared automated vehicles, into the transportation planning process. The workshop will bring a range of stakeholders together to explore future technologies, policies, and planning needs. Key takeaways include a better understanding of possible policies/scenarios for modeling shared electric connected and automated (SECA) vehicles; data needs; and tools for capturing the transportation impacts of shared mobility and SECA vehicles in planning models.

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The objective of this research project is to better understand and document the future of transportation, particularly in the area of shared mobility. The project will develop a framework for shared mobility by outlining best practices and model policies, and conduct a workshop on the future of mobility with an emphasis on planning, policymaking, and modeling.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

This future of mobility project and workshop will begin a critical discussion of key policy and planning issues, as well as the data and tools needed for analyzing impacts. It will highlight existing policies that address shared mobility, which could be incorporated into metropolitan transportation plans and Sustainable Community Strategies (per Senate Bill 375). The researchers will work closely with the Local Government Commission (LGC) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) on this workshop. The LGC has connected leaders from across the nation to advance policy solutions for sustainable communities that are advancing transformative policies to reduce negative impacts on the environment and enhance quality of life. NRDC brings a strong network and expertise in sustainable community strategies.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

As of August 2016, the contract request package for this research project is pending submission to Caltrans Division of Procurement and Contracting for processing.