

Planning, Policy
and
Programming

FEBRUARY 2023

Project Title:
Caltrans Carbon Reduction
Strategy (UC Institute of
Transportation Studies Support for
the Development of the Carbon
Reduction Strategy and Program)

Task Number: 4272

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Completion Date: May 31, 2024

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Caltrans Carbon Reduction Strategy

Near-term development of the Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS) and initiation of the roll-out of the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

WHAT IS THE NEED?

On November 15, 2021, the President signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Public Law 117-58, also known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law") (BIL) into law. The BIL authorizes a new Carbon Reduction Program codified at 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) 175 to reduce transportation emissions. The purpose of the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is to reduce transportation emissions through the development of State carbon reduction strategies and by funding projects designed to reduce transportation emissions.

By November 15, 2023, States are required to develop a Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS) in consultation with any MPO designated within the State. The State Carbon Reduction Strategy shall support efforts to reduce transportation emissions and identify projects and strategies to reduce these emissions.

Specifically, States, in coordination with MPOs, are encouraged to develop their Carbon Reduction Strategies as an integral part of their transportation planning processes, such as by integrating them into the State's Long-Range Statewide Transportation Plan (LRSTP), the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), or by developing a separate document which is incorporated by reference into the LRSTP and MTP.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The UC ITS subject matter experts will develop documents that contribute to the content of the Carbon Reduction Strategy. In addition, the UC ITS will work with Caltrans to develop tools and frameworks that can be used to select and prioritize candidate sites for Caltrans-sponsored, CRP-funded general purpose-to-priced managed lane conversions. The research team will also



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conduct case studies to analyze lessons learned for how Caltrans could proceed with CRP-funded pilots.

The research will comprise of the following tasks:

- Task 1: Contribute to the development of a Carbon Reduction Strategy
- Task 2: Develop a simple methodology for selecting and analyzing priced managed lane conversion pilots that Caltrans could fund with CRP "any area" funds
- Task 3: Conduct two in-depth case studies of priced managed lane conversion projects in corridors that Caltrans could fund with CRP "any area" funds
- Task 4: Develop a framework/methodology for empirically evaluating and estimating the carbon reduction potential of CRP projects

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The goal of the research is to develop the Caltrans CRS to meet the above federal requirements. Due to the new and complex nature of the CRS, the research team from UC-ITS will leverage its broad experience to assist Caltrans to prepare the CRS by the specified deadline above and to meet all the federal requirements.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

This research will provide Caltrans with a comprehensive CRS plan that meet the federal requirement and deadline. In addition, the tool developed from this research will further assist Caltrans to implement CRS outlined in the plan.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

This is a new task order. Caltrans seeks to hire the experts at UC ITS to assist Caltrans on meeting the federal requirement for CRS. The anticipated contract start date is June 1, 2023.