



Caltrans photo by Scott Lorenzo

Caltrans' mobile fleet is composed of about 12,000 "wheeled" assets that include cars, trucks, snow blowers, sweepers, trailers and landscape equipment. For the 2017-18 fiscal year, 82 percent of that fleet was fully functional, and the early figures for 2018-19 are even better. The goal is 90 percent.

'Wheeled' Assets Must Be Ready to Roll

Despite Having an Aging Fleet, Caltrans Gains on Goal of 90 Percent Availability

California counts on its transportation system to run smoothly, and to make that happen, Caltrans has a mobile fleet that numbers about 12,000 to perform highway maintenance, construct projects, transport staff and respond to emergency situations.

The idea is to have all the right equipment available to Caltrans work crews at the right place and at the right times. When a vehicle or other piece of equipment in the mobile fleet is fully operational and ready to go, that qualifies as "available." Statewide, Caltrans has an availability goal of at least 90 percent.

Nine years ago, 29 percent of Caltrans' mobile fleet was declared in need of repairs and not deployable — leaving availability at 71 percent.

Since then, the numbers have improved substantially, with the 2016-17 and 2017-18 fiscal years showing an 82 percent availability. The equipment status is looking even better for the current 2018-19 fiscal year, which so far has logged an availability of 84 percent.

Caltrans' complex and varied "wheeled" assets, valued at more than \$1.5 billion, consist of passenger cars, utility vehicles, light-duty to heavy-duty trucks, snow blowers, loaders, landscaping-related vehicles, dump trucks, trailers, auto ferries and boats. The vehicles are used by many Caltrans divisions, including Traffic Operations, Equipment, Maintenance, and Construction.

Some of those vehicles have been around for a while and are well used. The average age of a piece of equipment in Caltrans' fleet is just under 12 years old. More than half the equipment meets replacement criteria, which makes decisions on the ones that get replaced quite a challenge given the annual budget of \$40 million.

For that and other reasons, including the Department's fix-it-first philosophy, the Division of Equipment puts a premium on preventive maintenance. The improving equipment availability numbers suggest that approach is paying off.

The Division of Equipment has more than 100 staff members engaged in the production and manufacturing of equipment at its vehicle assembly plant within the main Caltrans shop in Sacramento. More than 500 field workers provide fleet equipment maintenance and repair services throughout the state, with 12 district main shops, 11 sub-shops, and 118 resident mechanic field locations.

At the Division of Equipment, the motto is "Built and Maintained with Pride." **MM**

Source: Dave Roth, Office Chief, South Region, Caltrans Division of Equipment