



Innovation Becoming the Norm: Design Flexibility

We're quickly approaching the day when there will be no such thing as a simple repavement job. As Caltrans and its partners embrace the planning freedom that is central to the concept of Flexible Design, thinking outside the box will become second nature.

The results will be safe and more visually appealing thoroughfares that welcome multiple modes of transportation. Cyclists, transit riders and pedestrians will feel comfortable and secure on a stretch of road that may once have been accommodating to cars and trucks and little else.

What might have been a simple, cookie-cutter job can quickly become a multi-benefit project when planners look for the broadest possible options. In short, when designers are empowered to incorporate some flexibility, a whole world of opportunity will present itself.



San Luis Obispo Before

Last month, the concept got another boost when the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) [adopted a resolution](#) to encourage design flexibility to better address multi-modal issues.

The Federal Highway Administration has also [embedded the concept of design flexibility](#) into their guidance recently. Closer to home, California Transportation Agency and Caltrans leaders have been reaching out to engineers and planners around the state to [encourage Design](#)

[Flexibility.](#)

One of the many examples of success through this approach is this roadway reconfiguration on Highway 227 in San Luis Obispo. The before and after pictures don't need many words to convey the story.

What could have been a freshly paved version of this cars-first roadway, turned

instead to a multi-use zone that not only offers greater safety, but enhances the visual experience of the road.

It's a great improvement. And one we expect to see replicated many times over.



San Luis Obispo After

VIDEO: Caltrans Director's Annual Bike Ride Highlighting Active Transportation

Come along with Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty, his executive team and cycling stakeholders as they ride through downtown Sacramento and West Sacramento to highlight how the Department is making significant moves to embrace and promote biking, walking and people-friendly streets.



Los Angeles Is Hiring a Sound Artist to Help Make its Streets Safer

(Gizmodo) After years of decline, the number of deaths on American streets are starting to rise again, a troubling statistic for many cities that are working hard to get more people walking and biking. Now Los Angeles's Department of Transportation (LADOT) is trying something new: Enlisting a sound artist

to bring attention to the city's traffic deaths. [Read More](#)



Crosswalks in LA's Boyle Heights
(Image: LA Great Streets)

Formerly Incarcerated Angelenos Get Second Chance Thanks to Caltrans Program and LA Mayor's Office



Photo courtesy of Mayor Eric Garcetti

(LAist) Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Caltrans announced plans to provide employment and on-the-job training to 1,350 formerly incarcerated individuals over the next three years.

The \$8.93 million pact between Caltrans and the Mayor's Office of Reentry will provide men and women on probation or parole with immediate, transitional employment on Caltrans work crews, according to

a statement from the mayor's office. Participants will also receive training in job readiness, life skills and financial literacy during this transition period, along with access to a number of services including cognitive behavior therapy. Participants will be placed in permanent employment positions after the conclusion of the transitional period. [Read More](#)

VIDEO: Caltrans Fixes Sinkhole and Keeps Traffic Moving

In this video, see how a small sinkhole on the shoulder of Interstate 5 in San Joaquin County led to a shutdown of both sides of the freeway for five days. Watch how Caltrans investigated the problem and determined a true fix to ensure a safe roadway for the motoring public for years to come.



Forward Momentum: What's Next in Smart Transportation



Randy Iwasaki of CCTA

Local ballot measures providing a half-cent sales tax earmarked for transportation, coupled with significant support from the U.S. Department of Transportation, are being put to work in Contra Costa County to develop an autonomous vehicle test center, a smart corridor on Interstate 80 and other smart mobility projects aimed at maximizing the efficiency of Bay Area roadways.

Contra Costa County Transportation Authority Executive Director Randy Iwasaki talked to Public CIO about his plans for a subscription-based autonomous transportation system, its role in a new 5G-based City 5.0 concept and the importance of data-driven transit programming. [Read More](#)

Coronado Bay Bridge Lighting Project Gets A Jolt

(KPBS) The San Diego Coronado Bay Bridge is one big check closer to getting a major facelift. InterContinental Hotels is set to donate \$100,000 to the San Diego Coronado Bay Bridge Lighting Fund, marking the first major contribution to the bridge lighting project's renewed effort. [Read More](#)

[Project Information + Concept Video](#)



Source: Port of San Diego

AND JUST FOR FUN...

The L.A. DOT Song from Animaniacs

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) is one of the few transportation agencies to have a song sung about it. L.A. Dot, with music by Randy Rogel, tells the story of the Animaniacs character Dot as she watches buses go by with her name.



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