



Caltrans Division of Research,  
Innovation and System Information

# Research

# Notes

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Project Title:  
Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Toolbox

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## Assessing Person Throughput Measuring Transportation Impacts for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Bus Rapid Transit Performance Analysis - phase two. A continuation of developing a tool for Caltrans to assist transit agencies in deploying BRT.

### WHAT IS THE NEED?

In September 2013, Senate Bill (SB 743) was signed by the Governor which affects the way transportation impacts are analyzed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Senate Bill requires transportation agencies (such as Caltrans) to no longer exclusively use Level of Service (LOS) when planning a transportation system. By July 1, 2014 the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is required to develop an initial draft of the alternative metrics, which may include "vehicle miles traveled, vehicle miles traveled per capita, automobile trip generation rates, or automobile trips generated". In order to assist transit agencies deploying BRT throughout California, Caltrans needs to create additional BRT specific metrics than can be used during reviews.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING?

This research is a continuation project to develop a low level tool. The previous research developed a high level tool to assist Caltrans District Staff to review BRT proposals being submitted to Caltrans.

### WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The objective is to develop a low level tool that will allow Caltrans to have alternative metrics other than Level of Service to analyze BRT projects being submitted.

### WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

A wide-ranging amount of BRT-related information needs to be collected as part of this research from the public transportation industry. Moreover, this information is intended to integrate BRT into Caltrans planning and project



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development process and to provide the input for the eventual development and hopefully wide-spread use of a BRT Deployment Decision Support Tool.

This project will assist Caltrans compliance with Deputy Directive 98 (Integrating Bus Rapid Transit into State Facilities), Deputy Directive 64 R1 (Complete Streets), Assembly Bill 32 (Air pollution: greenhouse gases: California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006), and Senate Bill 375.

### WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

Hopefully the results from this research will be a toolbox, handbook or guidebook for district personnel to review and understand BRT proposals.

### WHAT IS THE PRODUCT OF THIS RESEARCH?

Develop a low level tool that allows Caltrans to review BRT proposals.