



Tom Daly  
69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

---

## AB 252 Transportation Projects *Fact Sheet*

**Summary:** This bill provides faster delivery of California's transportation projects by allowing Caltrans' to streamline environmental review processes that are conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Assignment Program.

**Problem:** If Caltrans loses its authority to participate in the NEPA Assignment, the time and cost savings enjoyed by Caltrans and local transportation agencies will disappear.

With the recent passage of SB 1 in 2018 and influx of new transportation funding, it is even more crucial that California uses these funds efficiently and quickly.

**Solution:** By removing the sunset on this program, Caltrans will permanently have the jurisdiction to participate in the decision making process of the US Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and California will continue to reap the benefits of major time and cost savings.

**Background:** Historically, the U.S. DOT has assumed the role of NEPA decision maker in the delivery of surface transportation projects. Federal legislation in 2005 established a pilot program, known as the NEPA Assignment, which delegated NEPA decision-making authority to California and four other states. Participation requires states to follow the same procedural requirements as U.S. DOT, and assume the financial impacts and liability associated with the delegated authority.

Since 2006, California has participated in the NEPA Assignment. Caltrans' involvement has streamlined the environmental process for both state and local transportation projects without compromising compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

Caltrans has reported significant reductions in NEPA processing times, including an average of 20% (11.5 month) reduction in time to complete final Environmental Assessments and an average of 72% (130.8 month) reduction in time needed to complete final Environmental Impact Statements.

This streamlining has resulted in project cost savings worth millions of dollars while significantly speeding up the delivery of major transportation projects. These significant time savings outweigh the minor financial impact associated with the additional liability taken on by Caltrans.

**Support:** Self Help Counties Coalition (sponsor)  
California Transportation Commission  
Professional Engineers in CA Government  
City of San Diego  
California State Association of Counties  
CA Association of Councils of Governments  
Orange County Transportation Authority  
Ventura County Transportation Commission  
CA American Council of Engineering Companies

**Opposition:**  
None.

---

**For More Information:**

John Hanna | (916) 319 – 2069  
John.Hanna@asm.ca.gov