

# TCAG Annual Report 2024



## OUR IMPACT ON TULARE COUNTY



Dinuba | Exeter | Farmersville | Lindsay | Porterville | Tulare | Visalia | Woodlake  
Tulare County



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# Rudy Mendoza

## TCAG Board Chair

### Honoring Dedication and Excellence

I want to also recognize and thank the amazing staff at TCAG for their hard work. There are multiple studies being prepared and projects being funded by this awesome team. An example is the amazing Outreach Program that provides bicycle helmets and child car seat installation to help protect Tulare County's greatest people; our children. While we may never know the actual number of injuries prevented or lives saved, it is clear the staff of TCAG love their community.



Thank you to everyone that helped make 2024 successful for Tulare County. We look forward to another successful year in 2025.

-Rudy Mendoza

### 2024- The year of Accomplishments

A lot was accomplished in 2024! TCAG hosted a successful valley-wide policy conference. With the theme, "All Paths Lead to Yes!" TCAG took inspiration to carry this vision into 2024. One of our great partnerships is the 99 Coalition with Madera and Merced Counties. As the 99 Coalition led the way, Caltrans Central Valley District 6 partnered with TCAG and our member agencies to obtain grants to fully fund the Highway 99 segment from Delano to Pixley as well as a \$98 million grant for the City of Tulare section.

Wait there's more! TCAG partnered with member agencies to receive significant funding for Active Transportation Program (ATP) projects and Cross Valley Rail. Roundabouts are being planned and constructed throughout the county. Transportation projects funded through TCAG are being used for economic development. Thank you to all of our partners for making 2024 so successful.



TCAG Outreach Crew

# SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY POLICY CONFERENCE



## ALL PATHS LEAD TO YES!

TCAG staff made a conscious effort to highlight locally owned businesses within Tulare County by purchasing items for the conference, including but not limited to:

- Almond brittle from Stafford's Chocolates located in Porterville
- Pistachios from Setton Farms located in Terra Bella
- Stress cows and ice cream from Rosa Brothers located in Tulare
- Lip balm and fruit gems from Sunkist located in Woodlake
- Honey from Bradshaw Honey located in Visalia
- Ice cream from Orange Works located in Strathmore
- Programs, swag bags, notebooks, foam boards, and banner from The Creative Promo located in Visalia
- Gift baskets from local small business, Naturally Nuts located in Visalia
- "Show Your Badge" was a program offered from Visit Visalia, encouraging attendees to eat and shop at Downtown Visalia businesses.



Attendees filled up the 55 rooms that were blocked at the Marriott. Staff recommended other attendees stay at several alternative hotels in the downtown Visalia area.

Between speakers and moderators, there were over 50 panelists from across the Central Valley, having the opportunity to bring attention to their various sectors and industries. Richard "KiKi" Torrez Jr., a professional boxer and Olympic Silver Medalist, was the keynote speaker and is a Tulare County local. Abigail Solis representing Governor Gavin Newsom's office, and Richard "Buddy" Jones, the opening speaker on the final day of the conference, are both Tulare County natives.

"Yield at the Round About!" was a popular destination at the conference with videos shared across social media with the hashtag #2024SJVSpringPolicyConference.





# LOCALMOTION



## Outstanding People in Tulare County

The Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) proudly hosted the 2024 LocalMotion Awards in the City of Woodlake. This marks the first awards ceremony since the COVID-19 pandemic, making the event particularly special as it honored exceptional contributions to transportation in Tulare County. The awards ceremony offered a lively opportunity for the participating agencies to unwind and enjoy themselves, with a vibrant Disco theme adding an extra element of fun to the event. The LocalMotion Awards celebrate the projects, individuals, public officials, and plans that have made a lasting impact on transportation infrastructure, safety, and sustainability in the region.

## Celebrating Projects with a Purpose

Localmotion award winners exemplify the progress and dedication towards creating a safer, more efficient, and sustainable transportation network in Tulare County. The projects recognized at the ceremony have enhanced connectivity, supported active transportation, and beautified communities across the region.

We are pleased to announce that we successfully completed LocalMotion under budget. Through careful planning, and the dedication of our team, we were able to execute a successful event. We look forward to doing the same in 2026.



Groovy Women of TCAG



City of Farmersville Receiving Award



Caltrans District 6 Staff Displaying Award

### Bike or Pedestrian Project:

- City of Porterville - Santa Fe Byway
- County of Tulare - Road 160 Sidewalks
- City of Lindsay - Linda Vista Loop

### Outstanding Road Project:

- City of Dinuba - Kamm/Alta Roundabout
- City of Tulare - Pleasant Avenue
- Caltrans - Tagus 6 Lane SR 99
- Caltrans - SR 190 Emergency Project

### Innovative & Sustainable Transportation:

- City of Visalia - County Center
- City of Farmersville - Los Arroyos Housing

### Outstanding Transit Project:

- City of Farmersville - Transit Center

### Outstanding Transportation Beautification Project:

- City of Visalia - Houston Roundabout Landscaping

### Outstanding Public Employee:

- Diana Gomez, Caltrans

### Outstanding Elected Official:

- Amy Shuklian, Tulare County Supervisor





# 2024 WAS A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR IN OBTAINING GRANT FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AT TCAG



It started with TCAG being awarded \$98 million dollars from the Federal Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program to be used in various Highway 99 projects in the City of Tulare, including widening to six lanes between Prosperity Avenue and Road 200, and the rebuilding of the Paige Avenue Interchange. These improvements are significant and will serve to greatly enhance highway safety, traffic flow, bike and pedestrian access across the highway and open up new economic development opportunities. Other funding leveraged to obtain this grant include \$11.3 million from Measure R and an application for \$62.7 million from the State's Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP).

Shortly thereafter, TCAG was awarded \$58 million for the implementation efforts of the Cross Valley Corridor Express, a bus rapid transit system connecting various cities within the region to our neighbors in Kings County. The system is centered around providing express bus service with the current phase running between Lindsay in the east and Hanford in the west. Future expansion of the system will go all the way to Porterville in the east and Huron in Fresno County to the West. Tulare, Dinuba and Woodlake will be included in the system with bus services from their respective transit centers. The project is complemented with current transit facilities being proposed and constructed, including new transit centers in small communities, high density housing projects within close proximity to those centers, and active transportation connections. Ultimately, this effort will build ridership to support running a passenger rail system along the existing freight lines between these cities and connect to the future High Speed Rail Station in Hanford.



Lastly, the region's agencies have been awarded \$19.5 million dollars in competitive funding from the state's Active Transportation Program, which represents 20% of all of the funding awarded in this program in the entire state. This is a significant accomplishment and will fund three projects throughout the City of Visalia. These projects will provide bike and pedestrian access to major destinations, facilitate students getting to and from school safely and provide alternate modes of travel for the citizens. When looked at holistically, these improvements complement the other transportation efforts to improve access to our communities and have multiple options for how to get there.





# Active Transportation

Active Transportation continues to be an area of interest for local agencies and residents in Tulare County. Since its inception in 2013, the Active Transportation Program (ATP) has provided approximately \$68 million to local agencies in the County. For the most recent ATP funding cycle, TCAG staff held a number of workshops and training events for local agency staff to assist with the preparation of ATP grant applications for Cycle 7. In addition, ATP program managers and staff from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) conducted a 2-day in-person site visit to Tulare County to visit ATP projects and meet with staff.

## ATP Funding Success

These visits provide the opportunity for agency staff to receive vital feedback and advice on how to prepare competitive grant applications. These efforts led to one of the most successful grant cycles for Tulare County agencies. Due to State budget uncertainties, the amount of ATP funding available for Cycle 7 Statewide and Small Urban and Rural component was reduced from \$341 million to \$101 million. Nevertheless, three projects from the Tulare County region were awarded funds totaling \$19.5 million or approximately 20% of the overall available funding. The projects awarded are:

- City of Visalia Highland Community Connectivity Project - \$5,470,00
- City of Visalia Beyond Bike Lanes - Elevating Santa Fe Street - \$11,390,000
- City of Visalia Goshen Visalia Corridor Connection Project - \$2,636,000

## Made Possible by Partnerships



Looking forward, TCAG staff will continue to work with our local agency partners, Caltrans District 6 and the CTC to ensure continued success in obtaining ATP funding for our region.



# FUNDING INNOVATION & EFFICIENCY



## MEASURE R ACHIEVEMENTS

Measure R is a half-cent sales tax approved by the voters in 2006 and is frequently leveraged with federal and state grants. Since its inception, Measure R has been a resounding success and has led to the delivery of over \$2 billion dollars in construction projects that our region and its communities would not have been able to obtain otherwise. This is achieved through significant leveraging of Measure R funds. Throughout the region, the list of projects with Measure R is extensive and reflective of the desires of the people in this region by repairing crumbling roadways, improving safety, providing choices in how to travel, and opening up new infrastructure to support a growing economy. Measure R has been highly successful in meeting this mandate. During 2024, the following projects were funded with County Partners and Measure R:



- SR99/Int'l Agri-Center Interchange in Tulare
- Riggin Ave 4-lane projects in Visalia
- SR245/Cajon Roundabout in Woodlake
- SR190/Westwood Roundabout in Porterville
- \$17.5 million across the county for local priorities



*In the coming years, a five-mile stretch from south of Avenue 200 to north of Prosperity Avenue in the City of Tulare will be widened and improved.*

## FINISH THE 99



In 2022, TCAG teamed up with our regional neighbors in Merced and Madera to form a collective advocacy group. These two regions share our situation of having portions of Highway 99 with only four lanes and are looking to complete the system by expanding the remaining segments to six lanes. By working together with these regions, TCAG is able to amplify its message and advocacy with our federal and state partners and ultimately get more funding for the completion of the highway. These unfinished segments represent a significant safety challenge and need to be completed to make our highways as safe as possible and continue to serve the goods movement needs of our growing regions.



# 2024 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

**Wendy Aguilera**  
**TCAG Administrative Clerk**

Wendy's ability to inspire others, provide excellent service, and contribute to the success of the organization has not gone unnoticed. Whether leading a major project, or boosting team morale, Wendy has proven time and again that she is an invaluable asset to the TCAG Team.

"Wendy has been a force of nature from the moment she started at TCAG, but her calm tenacity and strong ability to grow and adapt was made evident with the reorganization of the admin staff."

-Holly Gallo



## TCAG Welcomed **NEW EMPLOYEES**



**ELENA NAVA**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK**



**SUSIE VELASCO-HERRERA**  
**ACCOUNTANT**



**ALEX CRUZ**  
**DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

## 2024 Outreach Stats

- TCAG has four certified car seat technicians on staff and counting.
- TCAG participated in six car seat safety events, partnered with Sit Right CPS, Tulare County Public Health, and other community agencies.
- A total of 137 car seats were checked:
  - 82 of those car seats were replaced with properly fitted and operational car seats.
  - The car seat misuse rate for these events in 2024 was 100%.
- At other outreach events, such as community events and health fairs, 750 children's multi-sport helmets were disseminated in 2024.



# 2025

# WHAT'S COMING



## BUILDING THE FUTURE:

### SIGNIFICANT PLANNING EFFORTS

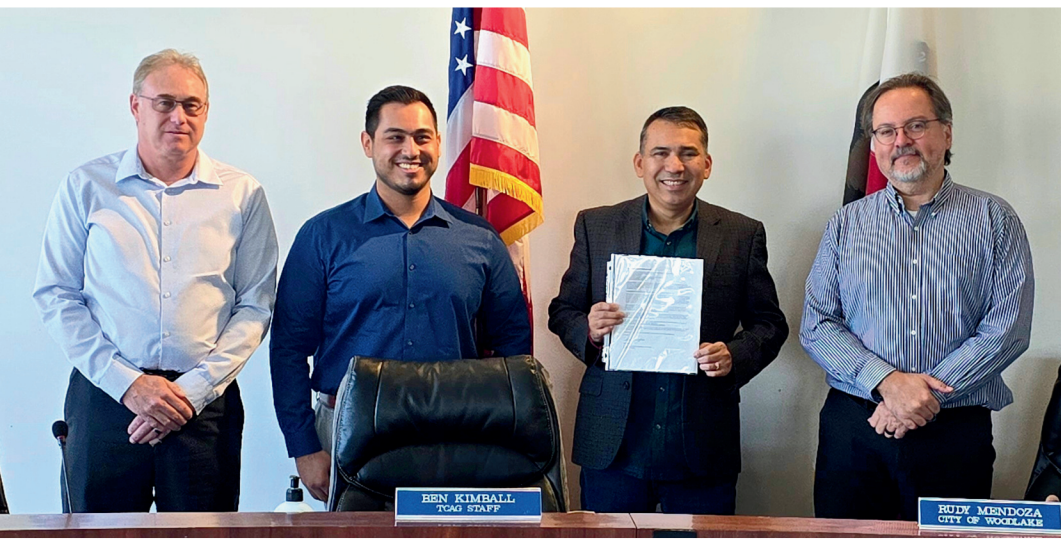
- Completion of the Housing Element Updates
- Vital outreach for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Continued community safety outreach with children's bike helmets and car seat installation assistance



## MAJOR PROJECTS GOING TO CONSTRUCTION:

- SR-99 Delano to Pixley
- SR-99/Caldwell Interchange Improvement Project
- Caldwell Avenue from Santa Fe to Lovers Lane
- SR-190 Corridor Improvements
- Over \$15 million in road rehabilitation across the County

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow is our doubts of today."  
- Franklin D. Roosevelt



BEN KIMBALL  
TCAG STAFF

RUDY MENDOZA  
CITY OF WOODLAKE





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