

TCAG Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) Meeting Agenda

Thursday August 26, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.



Tulare County Association of Governments
210 N. Church St., Suite B (Sequoia
Conference Room)
Visalia, CA 93291

NOTE: This meeting will allow Board Members and the public to participate in the meeting via Teleconference, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020), available at:
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.17.20-N-29-20-EO.pdf>

Call-In Option

Call-In # (877) 853-5257
Meeting ID: 7447100343
Code: 82243742

Zoom Video Option

Direct Link: <https://bit.ly/2Zt4BQY>
Meeting ID: 7447100343
Code: 82243742

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1) Welcome & Introductions

2) Public Comments

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the TCAG Active Transportation Advisory Committee on items within its purview but not on this agenda. Unscheduled comments are limited to 3 minutes. Note: Prior to the action by the Committee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item.

3) Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 24, 2021 (Attached)

4) Information: Project Implementation Status Update

5) Information: ATP Program Update

6) Information: Tulare County Public Health Bicycle and Pedestrian Fatality Update

7) Information: Caltrans District 6 Update

8) Information: CHP Update

9) Information: Active Transportation Outreach Update

10) Information: Slideshow of successful Bike to Wherever Day Activities celebrated nation-wide

11) Other Business

12) Adjourn

The next scheduled TCAG Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting is on **Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at the Tulare County Association of Governments, 210 N. Church Street, Suite B, Visalia, CA 93291.**

**Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)
Active Transportation Advisory Committee Members**

<i>Vacant</i>	City of Exeter
Michael Camarena (Chair)	City of Lindsay
Lisa Wallis-Dutra	City of Farmersville
Richard Tree*	City of Porterville
Frank Senteno or Rebecca Keenan*	City of Visalia
Jan Bowen	City of Tulare
Monique Mello	City of Woodlake
<i>Vacant</i>	City of Dinuba
<i>Vacant</i>	County of Tulare
Jose Ruiz-Salas or Sharon Minnick*	County of Tulare-Public Health
Michael Winton	County of Tulare-Resource Management Agency
Gracie Johnson	County of Tulare-Sheriff
Steve Beal	California Highway Patrol
<i>Vacant</i>	Interest Group #1
<i>Vacant</i>	Interest Group #2
<i>Vacant</i>	Interest Group #3
<i>Vacant</i>	Interest Group #4
<i>Vacant</i>	Interest Group #5
<i>Vacant</i>	Interest Group #6
Russ Dahler	Citizens' Oversight Committee (At Large #1)
Mark Wall (Vice-Chair)	At Large #2
Pedro Ramirez	Caltrans, District 6

* Agency rotates alternate

TCAG STAFF

Ted Smalley, Executive Director
Ben Kimball, Deputy Executive Director
Ben Giuliani, Executive Officer- LAFCO
Leslie Davis, TCAG Fiscal Manager
Elizabeth Forte, Principal Regional Planner
Roberto Brady, Principal Regional Planner
Derek Winning, Senior Regional Planner
Gabriel Gutierrez, Senior Regional Planner
Kasia Poleszczuk, Associate Regional Planner
Steven Ingoldsby, Associate Regional Planner
Barbara Pilegard, Associate Regional Planner-EH
Maria Garza, Associate Regional Planner-EH
Giancarlo Bruno, Regional Planner
Sheela Bhongir, Regional Planner
Michele Boling, TCAG Accountant III
Brideget Moore, TCAG Staff Services Analyst III
Amie Kane, TCAG Administrative Clerk II
Servando Quintanilla, TCAG Administrative Clerk
Holly Gallo, Office Assistant III

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Tulare County Association of Governments
Active Transportation Advisory Committee
June 24, 2021

ATTENDANCE LIST

Michael Camarena, Chair (-)	City of Lindsay
Lisa Wallis-Dutra (P)	City of Farmersville
Vacant	City of Exeter
Richard Tree (-)	City of Porterville
Frank Senteno (P)	City of Visalia
Jan Bowen (P)	City of Tulare
Monique Mello (-)	City of Woodlake
Ismael Hernandez (P)	City of Dinuba
Jose Ruiz-Salas (-)	County of Tulare – Public Health
Sharon Minnick (-)	County of Tulare – Public Health
Michael Winton (-)	County of Tulare – Resource Management Agency
Gracie Johnson (-)	County of Tulare – Sheriff
Steve Beal (-)	California Highway Patrol
Russ Dahler (P)	Citizens' Oversight Committee (At Large #1)
Mark Wall, Vice-Chair (P)	At Large #2
Pedro Ramirez (P)	Caltrans, District 6
Michael Young (P)	Ad hoc attendee, FYE Sports Owner

TCAG Staff: Benjamin A Kimball, Brideget Moore, Servando Quintanilla, Giancarlo Bruno, Sheela Bhongir, Gabriel Gutierrez, and Holly Gallo

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome & Introductions

Committee Chair Michael Camarena opened the meeting at 8:35. Committee members present were Members Russ Dahler, Lisa Wallis-Dutra, Frank Senteno, Pedro Ramirez, Mark Wall, Jan Bowen Ismael Hernandez and Michael Young. TCAG Staff Members Quintanilla, Bhongir, Bruno, Smalley, Gallo, Kimball, Moore, Brady and Gutierrez were also in attendance.

2. Public Comments

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Public comments open and closed at 8:36. No public comments were received.

3. Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021

Upon motion by Member Russ Dahler and seconded by Lisa Wallis-Dutra, the committee unanimously approved the meetings for May 27, 2021. Chair Camarena acknowledged he was not present at the meeting and thanked Member Dahler for chairing the committee.

4. Action: Discuss ideas for May 2022 Bike to School, Work or Wherever Day

TCAG Staff Bhongir opened the item discussing the significance of the month of May as every year many non-profit organizations celebrate National Bike to Work on the third Friday of May. This national event has been taking place since 1955 by the League of American Bicyclists and the American Medical Association. Next year the day will fall on Friday May 20, 2022 and Staff Bhongir shared this can be an opportunity for the committee to participate in nation-wide events. Staff Bhongir proposed for the committee to select and recognize a bike champion of the year. This individual would be recognized for their commitment to use the bicycle for everyday activities, ranging from exercise to running errands and travelling to visit friends and family. The bike champion of the year can also be a person who has organized countless bicycle rides and/or volunteered their time to fix and tune up bicycles. Staff Bhongir then opened the item to the committee.

Member Wall spoke first by sharing event ideas posted on the League of American Bicyclists website such as a ride with the mayor, a bike fair to tune up bikes and fix flat tires, a bicycle swap-meet and company competitions tracking the number of miles employees traveled to work using a bike. Member Ramirez followed by asking Staff Bhongir to clarify this action item and specify her request. Staff Bhongir tried to clarify her request by seeing if any committee member would like to propose a motion to select and recognize a bike champion of the year. This would entail each member agency giving a recommendation of a bike champion of their jurisdiction. Staff Kimball added that this item is up for debate and if the committee is agreeable to this idea in concept, then staff would come back to the committee with suggested guidelines to implement and organize a committee sponsored bike to work, school or wherever day.

Member Wallis-Dutra responded saying these nation-wide events are important to support even though this committee hasn't organized something to this extent. She recognized Member Ramirez's past events promoting bike to workday and hosting a friendly competition between Caltrans and agencies such as Kaiser, City of Fresno and the County of Fresno. Member Wallis-Dutra added saying she is supportive of these ideas to organize a bicycle event and recognize a bicycle champion or community leader. Member Ramirez acknowledged Staff Moore's past activities and events with local schools on bicycle safety and suggested enhancing these events by encouraging parents and teachers to participate.

Member Wall added another idea to the discussion saying this month would be a good opportunity to also promote new and existing bike trails by encouraging politicians, mayors and chamber of commerce leaders to designate various day in May where city leaders perhaps take turns to ride one or all of these trails during the month of May. Furthering the discussion, Member Ramirez shared the City of Fresno used a honor system to log each individual's number of miles traveled and their trip origin and destination. This could become a tool to understand why people bike or walk. Fun prizes and awards were given to participants who used the system to track their miles traveled.

Chair Camarena shared that the City of Lindsay, in past years, has supported bike/walk to school day. This item will be continued at future meetings to further hash out specific ideas and conclude how the committee would like to proceed. Chair Camarena requested TCAG staff to investigate funding opportunities to support these types of events throughout the county.

Staff Moore stated she is actively applying for a grant from the California Department of Public Health to cover expenses for bike rodeos. A recently awarded grant allowed for the purchase of 100 bicycle helmets and 30 car seats to use for future public safety events. During some of these future bike rodeos, Member Dahler suggested using these events as an opportunity to seek input from parents and students of a particular teacher or student aid who does cycle and would be open to organizing mini-competitions and bike rides encouraging students to bike to school.

Lastly, Member Ramirez stressed the importance of planning events that are fun and exciting, such as involving a bicycle police to escort a group ride. Chair Camarena concluded this item by sharing an event hosted by the City of Porterville called the Challenge of a Thousand, which ended about a month ago. The event occurred during the Covid pandemic and had a very high turn-out of participants who used the Strava, to track various activities totaling 1000 minutes.

Staff Bhongir suggested the committee focus on selecting a bike champion of the year instead of competing with city-wide events that seem to be taking place in each of the seven cities within Tulare County. Chair Camarena responded to keep the focus broad in scope and specifics can be decided upon in future meetings.

5. Information: Project Implementation Status Update

TCAG Staff Kimball shared there are not many items to report, however the most pressing update for active transportation is waiting for the State to approve the ATP budget surplus of \$500 million. If the State approves the budget, high-scoring projects that were not funded in the last round could potentially be funded. We are awaiting a final signature from the governor. Staff Bhongir shared that if funding is approved, TCAG is very confident the following projects would get picked up – Dinuba's El Monte Way, Visalia's Goshen Trail and Porterville's Putnam and Elderwood sidewalk improvements. Staff Bhongir has worked with the above-mentioned cities to start the environmental process in anticipation of these funds. She shared this will speed up the process by a few months.

Staff Kimball further shared TCAG has submitted an affordable housing and sustainable communities grant application that could fund a transit center in Farmersville including several active transportation improvements. It will be a while before results are released. Staff Kimball turned the focus over to Public Works Director Ismael Hernandez to share a few recent developments from HSIP funding. Three years ago, Dinuba sent out an RFP for a city-wide active transportation plan. At the time, Hernandez chose a consultant who stressed the importance of creating an implementable plan that does not sit on the shelf. The consultant has helped the City of Dinuba successfully apply for HSIP funding of \$1.6 million. The funds are being used to perform road diets on all of City's major arterials – El Monte, Alta, Crawford, Sierra Way, Saginaw and Kamm Avenue. Design efforts include Class II buffered bike lanes. The City has experienced a few pedestrian-vehicle fatalities and hopes these improvements will enhance roadway safety.

Chair Camarena inquired who the consultant was and Member Hernandez shared it was a consultant group based in San Jose called TJKM. Member Wall inquired if the study is available online. Public Works Director Hernandez said the systemic safety study and pedestrian and bicycle safety and connectivity study they produced might not be available online but he can e-mail both studies to anyone who is interested.

Staff Bhongir asked Member Hernandez questions to clarify the similarities and differences between Dinuba's HSIP Grant Applications and ATP Applications. Staff Bhongir noticed some of these bicycle and pedestrian proposals overlap with each other. Member Hernandez answered that the HSIP program focuses more on safety and collision analysis. A benefit to cost ratio is used in the application process which puts a numerical value to a range of traffic-related fatalities. The application process involved calculating the highest possible benefit to cost ratio which resulted in recommendations such as road diets, striping lanes, painted medians and adding high visibility crosswalks. The ATP applications are asking raised concrete medians which can provide additional traffic calming and safety.

Staff Kimball asked if any other cities would like to share their bike and ped projects. Staff Bhongir responded she has invited City Engineer Frank Senteno from Visalia to highlight a few of their projects. Member Senteno shared that the City of Visalia is excited about three upcoming projects. One of the projects being the Class I Goshen trail which is awaiting ATP surplus funds. Member Senteno said this would serve as more than a recreational trail, it will bring people into their downtown. The second project is for a Class IV trail on Santa Fe using CMAQ funding. They received almost \$3 million to build 1.5 miles of a Class IV trail. This will be a two-way bike lane separated by a buffer from the travel lane. The third project, which the city is most excited about is on Tulare Avenue. The city used old STPL funds from their payment rehabilitation project and SB1 money. The project will convert their existing Class II lanes into Class IV lanes by swapping out the parking spaces. Results from their online survey and workshop were favorable towards the improvements. City Council supported the project. This trail connects about half a dozen schools.

6. Information: ATP Program Update

Staff Gutierrez said most of this item has been covered in the previous item, however he added clarifying information on the ATP surplus. Yesterday's CTC meeting shared the governor has a statutory deadline of June 30, so results may be coming soon. Secondly, staff has submitted recommendations for the statewide augmentation process and will hear back from the CTC by July 15. Additionally, staff recommendations for the MPO component were approved by the CTC. Selected projects were Ivanhoe's Safe Routes to School project and Tipton's sidewalk improvements. Lastly, the CTC approved an allocation of \$1.3 million for right of way on Caldwell Avenue between Santa Fe and Lover's Lane.

Member Russ asked Staff Guterrez if the ATP Surplus was approved, how many projects would be funded. Staff Guterrez couldn't give an exact number but shared that projects with a score 86 to 92 points will most likely get funded.

7. Information: Tulare County Public Health Bicycle and Pedestrian Fatality Update

County of Tulare Public Health representative was not present at this meeting. The item was skipped

8. Information: Caltrans District 6 Update

Member Ramirez informed the committee of initial Caltrans Active Transportation (CAT) planning efforts. Caltrans is currently collecting data of all existing and proposed facilities. Each Caltrans districts is working on their CAT plan. Member Ramirez highlighted the Ivanhoe Safe Routes to School project ATP grant that will help improve the safety and walkability of the community's five-legged intersection and railroad crossing.

Staff Bhongir congratulated Caltrans for receiving the Ivanhoe ATP grant and mentioned the County needs more projects like this. Member Ramirez added saying this effort wouldn't have been possible without the partnership between the County, CalWalks, TCAG, the engineering

department who put together a feasibility study and community's involvement conducting walk audits.

9. Information: CHP Update

No CHP representative was present. The item was skipped.

10. Information: Project Active Transportation Outreach Update

Staff Moore shared most of the update during the previous item. The admin team is working on completing the California Department of Public Health grant application by July. Another grant awarded her team safety supplies for future public outreach events. Staff Moore highlighted a previous bike rodeo event at the Tule River Reservation and shared she is currently in the works of organizing a Bike Rodeo event for the City of Dinuba. Lastly, Staff Moore invited anyone on this committee to volunteer during future outreach events as the state starts to re-open from the pandemic.

Chair Camarena asked when the Dinuba Bike Rodeo is anticipated to occur. Staff Moore answered it's tentatively planned for August eighteenth.

11. Information: Other Business

No other business was reported.

Chair Camarena thanked the cities of Dinuba and Visalia for sharing their current projects and setting an example of other cities to follow suit.

12. Adjourn

Chair Camarena moved to adjourn the meeting and reminded the committee there will be no meeting in July. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 26, at the TCAG office. The meeting was adjourned at 9:26.