

The next scheduled TCAG Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting is on **Thursday, May 26, 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**

Eddie Wendt	City of Exeter
Edward Real	City of Lindsay
Kevin Gross	City of Farmersville
Jason Ridenour	City of Porterville
Frank Senteno or Diego Corvera*	City of Visalia
Jan Bowen or Mario Anaya	City of Tulare
Jason Waters	City of Woodlake
Ismael Hernandez	City of Dinuba
Michael J. Winton	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
Michael Young	Interest Group #1
Jenn Garvin	Interest Group #2
Monique Mello	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	At Large #2
Pedro Ramirez or Edgar Hernandez*	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, Senior Regional Planner
Steven Ingoldsby, Senior Regional Planner
Maria Garza, Associate Regional Planner-EH
Jennifer Miller, 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
Richard Tree, TCRTA Executive Director

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Tulare County Association of Governments
Active Transportation Advisory Committee
March 24, 2022

ATTENDANCE LIST

Neyba Amezcua (-) Edward Real (P)	City of Lindsay
Kevin Gross (P)	City of Farmersville
Eddie Wendt (P)	City of Exeter
Jason Ridenour (-)	City of Porterville
Diego Corvera (P) Frank Senteno (-)	City of Visalia
Jan Bowen (-) Mario Anaya (P)	City of Tulare
Jason Waters(P)	City of Woodlake
Ismael Hernandez (-)	City of Dinuba
Jose Ruiz-Salas (-) Sharon Minnick (-)	County of Tulare – Public Health
Michael Winton (P)	County of Tulare – Resource Management Agency
Gracie Johnson (-)	County of Tulare – Sheriff
Steve Beal (P)	California Highway Patrol
Russ Dahler (P)	Citizens’ Oversight Committee (At Large #1)
Mark Wall (P)	At Large #2
Pedro Ramirez (-) Alec Kimmel (-) Edgar Hernandez (P)	Caltrans, District 6
Richard Tree (-)	Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA)
Michael Young (P)	Interest Group #1
Jenn Garvin (-)	Interest Group #2

TCAG Staff: Brideget Moore, Sheela Bhongir, Holly Gallo

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting started at 8:34AM by Member Russ Dahler who is currently the interim Committee Chair and who is the At Large Member #1 representing the Citizen’s Oversight Committee. Committee members present were Members Steve Beal, Sharon Minnick, Eddie Wendt, Michael Winton, Michael Young, Mark Wall, Edward Real, Mario Anaya, Kevin Gross, Diego Corvera, Edgar Hernandez, Monique Mello, Jason Waters and honorary guest attendees Mike Camarena, Elaine Garrett and Bryan Patterson. TCAG Staff Members Moore, Bhongir and Gallo were present.

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.

Public comments open and closed at 8:40. No public comments were received.

3. Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 24, 2022

Motion approved by Member Beal and seconded by Member Wall. A second motion to approve the January 27th ATAC Meeting Minutes was passed by Member Wall and seconded by Member Beal.

4. Action: Nominations for ATAC Chair and Vice Chair and general member positions

This item was tabled for next month.

5. Information: Project Status Implementation Update

Member Gross representing the City of Farmersville, shared information on a widening project of Farmersville Boulevard with plans to include a Class I bicycle trail along certain segments. They are currently not pursuing any ATP grants, but plan to do so for the next cycle once the Farmersville Multimodal Study/Plan is complete. Member Corvera said the City of Visalia is wrapping up the Agua Trail Project that includes a Class II trail along Walnut Avenue between Santa Fe and Ben Maddox. Bike trails, buffer zones and delineators are present in this segment. Member Winton said the County is planning on submitting around three to four ATP applications for sidewalk and bicycle improvements along George Rd and 2nd street in Cutler Orosi, Road 192 in Popular and pedestrian facilities in the Mathney Tract. Member Hernandez representing Caltrans District 6 shared information on a restriping of Class II bike lanes along SR 63/Mooney Blvd (from Walnut to 198). The newest project includes Class II bike lanes along Dinuba Blvd between Houston and Crawford drive. More public outreach is needed for this project.

Member Corvera asked Member Hernandez for more clarification on the Class II bike lanes. Member Wall chimed to speak about potential involvement of the Visalia Unified School District. He is curious if the school district is eligible for ATP funds to promote safe cycling. Member Wall asked for feedback regarding a potential partnership between the school district and activities to promote safe cycling. Member Winton responded that TCAG has conducted outreach with the CHP to promote walking and biking safety through bike rodeos and by handing out bike helmets. The County does plan on including non-infrastructure elements to promote bicycle safety in this upcoming ATP cycle. Member Minnick confirmed with Member Winton if the County's outreach efforts were taking place in Earlimart and Cutler Orosi. Member Winton confirmed that outreach will happen in select communities but outreach has occurred and continues to occur for the County's Complete Streets policy document across almost 30 communities.

Member Russ suggested the PTA could get involved with bike rodeos by donating a free bicycle.

6. Information: ATP Program Update

Member Russ encouraged all agencies to apply for this year's ATP cycle. He acknowledges a lot of work is involved to put the grant applications together. Some of our the smaller cities may not have sufficient staff to put these applications together and might consider hiring consultants. Staff Moore chimed in with an update from Staff Gutierrez. The call for projects is now open till June 15, 2022. TCAG staff received two comments for the draft 2022 RATP update. The comments have been received and are being incorporated into the new RATP update. The RATP document will be presented to the TCAG board in April for final approval.

7. Information: SSC 35th Anniversary Recognition

Committee Member Wall wanted to recognize that this year marks the 35th anniversary of the Southern Sierra Cyclist organization which serves all of Tulare County and parts of King County. Member Wall introduced guest attendant Mike Camarena, Elaine and Bryan to share a few words on the 35th Anniversary. Guest attendee Mike Camarena shared a brief history of the

Southern Sierra Cyclist organization. The origin of the club goes back to the 1984 Olympics held in Los Angeles where a few cyclists who did competitive racing thought of forming a competitive group in the central valley. Many of the members were state and national champions. Racing however got more complicated and expensive. Around 2005, the club started to change its direction under the leadership of Bill Ziegler. At the time a full-time liaison was hired to ensure communication between the County and TCAG. However, this liaison was not interested in cycling or cycling advocacy. Mr. Ziegler advocated for the formation of ATAC to ensure cycling continues to have voice.

Guest attendee Bryan shared his story and involvement with SSC. He started competitive cycling at a later age than most. One of the reasons he has continued with cycling is because he believes it has “more depth and breadth” than any sport. The club addresses issue of beginner riders to competitions. He acknowledged the support of agencies such as TCAG to keep the club alive. Guest attendee Elaine, the current Chair of the SSC club, shared how touched she is with the way SSC supports and encourages new cyclists through local events. She also thanked TCAG for their recent support of their upcoming century ride and upcoming Earth Day bicycle ride. The club has monthly meetings in downtown Exeter at the VIP Pizza restaurant. All are welcome to join.

Member Corvera requested the help of SSC to disseminate surveys and information on the City of Visalia’s new bicycle projects and to get help reaching out to the cycling community. Guest attendee Elaine said the club would be happy to help disseminate information amongst their members.

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

Member Minnick was able to share some data from this year. This year alone the County has already experienced some of its highest fatalities. Ten pedestrians have been killed, with many of those incidents occurred in February in the cities of Visalia and Tulare. Many of these individuals are identified as unhoused.

9. Information: Caltrans District 6 Update CHP Update

Member Hernandez shared there is nothing new to update, other than the information that was previously shared.

10. Information: CHP Update

Member Beal shared information on the Explorer Program. The young explorers recently completed a half marathon race. Prior to this, the explores had limited running experience or exposure. Member Beal also ran the marathon. The explores are excited to run another half marathon in August.

11. Information: Active Transportation Outreach Update

Staff Moore shared that her team has been extremely busy with lots of outreach events. TCAG staff will be conducting a safety activity with elementary school kids in the Cutler and Orosi communities. They are coordinating with Officer Beal to conduct these safety activities. Staff Moore reported her team will have distributed and fitted over 300 helmets by this Friday. Every child who attends gets a helmet even if they don’t have a bicycle. Many of the young adults are very interested in safety and enthusiastic to ride. She showed the committee a sample prop they plan to use for Friday’s safety demonstration. The prop was a big cut-out picture of a vehicle so the young adults can simulate traffic to understand proper dos and don’ts. Her team also made fun passports for the elementary school children to take as a reminder of the workshop and will be giving each child a reflective bag with more safety information. Lastly, her team will be conducting outreach during the upcoming Rawhide games. They plan to have a booth to give away some free swag and information on safe walking and biking. Staff Moore welcomed any ideas or suggestions to make these activities more engaging.

12. Information: Upcoming Woodlake Class I Trail

Member Waters shared good news on a recent Clean CA grant the City of Woodlake was awarded. The City is planning on building a Class I trail that goes through the City’s botanical garden. Efforts for cleaning and beautifying the area will simultaneously be conducted. The City also received \$8.5 million to construct a new park which a biking trail and an area for BMX biking.

13. Action: ATAC Bike Rides for Earth Day, Bike to Work & School Day

Staff Bhongir presented a map of the proposed Bike to Work and School Day. She said a lot of coordination will need to be done amongst the schools listed on the map. The intention of the ride is for students to be able to say, "I biked to school on Bike to Work Day". This would hopefully create a lasting impression and encourage more cycling. Staff Bhongir gave an update that no changes to the Earth Day ride have been made. Member Wall chimed in sharing that we plan to fit helmets during the event and may try to organize a pre-ride clinic. Member Wall encourages as much participation as possible among our committee, TCAG staff, CHP and other members.

14. Information: Other Business

No other business was reported.

15. Adjourn

Acting Chair Dahler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, at the TCAG office.