

Thursday, October 27, 2022
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.



https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB361

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

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

- 1) Welcome & Introductions
- 2) Public Comments
This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the TCAG Active Transportation Committee on items within its purview but not on this agenda. Unscheduled comments are not permitted. Prior to the action by the Committee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment.
- 3) Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 22, 2022 (Attached)
- 4) Information: Smart Cycling Class November 19 & 20 (see flyer attached)
- 5) Information: Project Implementation Status Update
- 6) Information: ATP Program Update
- 7) Information: Tulare County Public Health Bicycle and Pedestrian Fatality Update
- 8) Information: Caltrans District 6 Update
- 9) Information: CHP Update
- 10) Information: Active Transportation Outreach Update
- 11) Other Business
- 12) Adjourn

The next scheduled TCAG Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting is on **Thursday, December 15, 2022 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
Rebecca Griswold	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 and ATAC Chair
Edgar Hernandez or Scott Lau	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
Roberto Brady, Principal Regional Planner
Derek Winning, Principal Regional Planner
Gabriel Gutierrez, Principal 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 Staff Analyst I
Holly Gallo, Office Assistant III
Richard Tree, TCRTA Executive Director

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JOIN US FOR A Smart Cycling Class

from the League of American Bicyclists
Taught by League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) with the
Fresno County Bicycle Coalition

Part I – Virtual Classroom Session

November 19, 2022, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Learn about bicycling and the law and riding safely on various types of bikeways and roads, in the dark, and in different weather conditions. Free. Register at:
<https://fresnobike.org/event-5000813>



Part II – On-Bike Session

November 20, 2022, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Learn bike handling skills, with parking lot drills at Shannon Ranch Elementary School in Visalia and a 10-mile bike ride on city streets. Completion of Smart Cycling Part I is required to attend Part II. Cost is \$25 and includes a Smart Cycling Manual. Limited to 20 participants. Register at:
<https://fresnobike.org/event-5000859>



Sponsored by



Tulare County Association of Governments
Active Transportation Advisory Committee
September 22, 2022

ATTENDANCE LIST

Neyba Amezcua (-) Edward Real (-)	City of Lindsay
Kevin Gross (-)	City of Farmersville
Eddie Wendt (-)	City of Exeter
Jason Ridenour (-) Luisa Zavala (P)	City of Porterville
Diego Corvera (P) Frank Senteno (-)	City of Visalia
Jan Bowen (-) Mario Anaya (-)	City of Tulare
Rebecca Griswold(-)	City of Woodlake
Ismael Hernandez (-)	City of Dinuba
Jose Ruiz-Salas (-) Sharon Minnick (P)	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 (P)	At Large #2 and ATAC Chair
Pedro Ramirez (-) Alec Kimmel (-) Edgar Hernandez (P) Scott Lau (P)	Caltrans, District 6
Richard Tree (-)	Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA)
Michael Young (P)	Interest Group #1 (Adventure Sports store)
Jenn Garvin (-)	Interest Group #2 (Porterville Unified School District CAPS)
Bryan Patterson (-)	Interest Group #3 (Southern Sierra Cyclists Secretary)

TCAG Staff: Sheela Bhongir Servando Quintanilla, Derrek Winning, Ben Kimball, Ted Smalley, Holly Gallo and Brideget Moore

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting started at 8:34AM by Chair Mark Wall, recently nominated during the August 25th ATAC meeting. TCAG staff announced their attendance followed by Members Luisa Zavala, Jenn Garvin, Michael Young, Diego Corvera, Sharon Minnick, Russ Dahler, Scott Lau and Edgar Hernandez. Guest speaker Jim Esparza California Operation Lifesaver was present along with one member of the public, Dale Simmons.

TCAG Staff present were Kimball, Smalley, Quintanilla, Gallo, Moore and Bhongir.

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 8:42.

3. Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 25, 2022

Member Minnick made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Member Dahler.

4. Information: League Cycling Instructor Training

Member of the public, Dale Simmons, shared with the committee about an opportunity to become a league cycling instructor. She was trained to be a League Cycling Instructor promoting safe cycling in Visalia. It's been a long time since she was trained and wanted to know if the committee is interested in pursuing a similar type of training. Simmons is organizing a Smart Cycling Class offered by the League Cycling Instructors who are ambassadors of the League of American Bicyclists, a national organization founded in 1880. These classes are a prerequisite to become a League Cycling Instructor. The first class is a free online workshop to be held on Saturday, November 19th. The second class is an outdoor class held the following day on Sunday November 20th. This class is \$25 which includes a book and the cost of instruction. There is currently no limit on class size. Exact times and the location are to be determined. The class is offered to anyone.

The training to become a League Cycling Instructor is \$500 which includes three days of intensive training. She recommends this training to anyone interested in bicycle safety.

Member Corvera asked Simmons how this is being advertised. Member of the public, Simmons answered through the Southern Sierra Cyclists group and right now at this committee.

Member Corvera asked if a flyer is available. Simmons answered that they can work on getting a flyer put together to help disseminate this information to the general public.

Chair Wall further promoted this program and encouraged the staff in each jurisdiction to take this training. He further noted that there are very few adult bicycle safety classes and therefore this is a good opportunity to reach out to adult riders.

5. Information: Presentation by California Operation Lifesaver

Chair Wall introduced Guest Speaker Jim Esparza from California Operation Lifesaver.

Speaker Esparza thanked the committee for welcoming his organization to speak about rail safety during this month in September, which is dedicated as rail safety month. Esparza said this week is called Rail Safety Week in North America for United States, Canada and Mexico. This year's theme for Rail Safety Week is called "Stop Track Tragedies".

In the United States, rail collisions occur every three hours. About half of those collisions occur at locations with active warning devices. Even though warning signs and devices are active, risk taking is still a big problem. Each year in the US we have about 2100 injuries or fatalities. This is in part due to the large number of railroads we have in addition to our large population therefore the exposure rate is higher and we have greater potential for getting involved into collisions.

Speaker Esparza shared a powerpoint presentation Operation Lifesaver shares to a wide range of adults from fire-fighters, school teachers, parents to kindergarteners. The first lesson he shared with everyone is to always expect a train to pass through the tracks. The reason being is because trains unlike vehicles can't swerve their way around an obstacle. Trains don't have a steering wheel. Trains cannot immediately stop. A freight train traveling 55 mph needs 5280 ft to stop and a passenger train needs a minimum of 600 feet to come to a complete

stop. The potential results are large tragedies. The same force and power a vehicle has to easily crush an aluminum can is the same force and power a train has to crush a car. The next lesson Guest Speaker Esparza shared is to immediately get out of a vehicle if it is stalled on the tracks because you always want to assume a train is coming. When exiting the vehicle a person should run in a direction towards the train from a 45 degree angle. The next step is to notify the railroad that there is an obstruction on the tracks so the train can come to a full stop. Look for a blue sign with white letters known as the emergency notification sign that lists the phone number and the number/address of the crossing.

Other topics covered by Speaker Esparza includes education when approaching a passive railroad crossing, an active crossing, driving around the gate, when driving on roads parallels to tracks and passing through multiple tracks. He further shared that trains are not required to blow their train horn in a quiet zone. Another concern regarding rail safety is speed misperception. When we see a train approaching it's hard to determine how fast it's coming because of the large size, similar to perception of airplanes flying at a faster speed than they appear.

When walking or standing near a railroad crossing it's good to be at least 15 feet away from the train to avoid any potential collisions. Fifteen feet is sufficient distance to be away from any cargo, straps or chains on the train. Lastly, people should not use railroad tracks as a recreational facility or for pictures. Operation Lifesaver urges everyone to look and listen for trains. For more information you can email Jim Esparza at james.esparza@cpuc.ca.gov or OLAV (916) 223-2038 and go online at www.oli.org

After the presentation was over, Chair Wall asked a question regarding who and where to call regarding a potential obstruction or collision. A crew will come out to check on the train and the situation at hand. Chair Wall thanked the presenter for sharing information.

6. Information: Project Implementation Status Update

Staff Bhongir said there is nothing new to report for this item, however agencies can use this time to share quick updates on projects they are working on. Member Corvera from the City of Visalia shared information on the Rikken Widening Project. They received an economic administrator grant for the portion between Kelsey to Shirk. Improvements will include some bike components in addition signalization changes. Another intersection with potential bike improvements is St. John's and Burke Street. A bike lane exists west of Burke Street that connects St. John's to schools and the Santa Fe Trail.

Member Zavala from the City of Porterville shared information on the Butterfield Stage Corridor. She reported that the project is currently in its design phase. They have also started on their Clean CA project to improve the Santa Fe Trail. Lastly, they are submitting two projects for the ATP Cycle 6 Round.

Staff Bhongir asked if there are any other agencies to share projects and saw none.

7. Information: ATP Program Update

Staff Bhongir shared a very brief update on behalf of Staff Gutierrez. ATP applications are currently undergoing evaluations and staff recommendations will be released in October.

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

Member Minnick did not specifically have an update for this month, but did have some information to share regarding the request asked last month. Her department is working on an annual health assessment. She shared that she uses SWITRS for data on traffic collisions. However the most recent data is from 2017. Member Minnick shared a report from the CA Department of Public Health from 2016 to 2018. The report lists a rate of deaths per every 100,000 people. The state wide rate is 9.8 and the rate in Tulare County is 17.1, exceeding the rate per the healthy places index. She also found information from the Robert Wood Johnson

foundation county health rankings. They calculated an alcohol impaired driving death rate from 2016 to 2020. For Tulare County the percentage of driving death with alcohol involvement is 36%. The state wide rate is 28%. Lastly, she shared some information about the Berkeley TIMS website, however they don't provide a rate per population or by vehicle miles traveled. Member Hernandez from Caltrans said he can research different rate metrics if that information is of interest to the committee.

Chair Wall commented on how the size of small rural counties may appear to have higher death rates because they have lower population as opposed to the urban areas which report lower rates. Member Minnick said the chances of a collision becoming a fatality in rural areas is higher given the higher speeds vehicles can travel at coupled with the fog and other factors.

Staff Winning added onto the discussion sharing information about the Caltrans HPMS program which has estimates of vehicle miles traveled. Member Minnick asked for a link to that information which Staff Bhongir will share with her as well as share the resources Member Minnick discussed with the committee.

9. Information: Caltrans District 6 Update CHP Update

Member Lau, a new member from Caltrans joining the ATAC committee, did not have any new updates to share. had a brief update sharing that Caltrans District 6 is in the process of finalizing the CAT plan.

10. Information: CHP Update

Member Beal was not present to share to report.

Chair Wall however shared some information regarding a recent collision that happened on Mooney Blvd to a person who has participated a few ATAC meetings. He was riding his bicycle southbound on Mooney Blvd from Whitendale to pick up his car from PepBoys. He had crashed along his route resulting in a severe concussion. He was able to look back at his Strava data to try to locate the crash. He speculates that he might have been riding his bicycle along the sidewalk. The reason Chair Wall shared this story was to help advocate for bicycle lanes along Mooney Blvd and encouragement to report any or all collisions whether minor or major.

11. Information: Active Transportation Outreach Update

Staff Moore reported they have succeeded with meeting the outreach event and activities requirement per the California Department of Public Health Kids' Plates grant. TCAG has conducted more than fifty outreach events and activities surpassing the minimum requirement per the grant.

Last week, they participated in the Tulare County Fair, hosting a booth with information on various TCAG projects and promoting safety education. This past Sunday, her team also conducted a bike rodeo event at the Tule River Reservation. More events are coming down the pipeline including participation at the Farmersville Fall Festival and hosting a bike rodeo activity in Porterville on October 15th. They have also been promoting car seat safety by continuing to install car-seats and preparing for another member of her team to get certified as car-seat safety technician. Upon their completion, her team would now have four certified car-seat safety technicians. Her team has been very busy being out in the community. While the work is exhausting, Staff Moore said it has also been very rewarding knowing that many helmets have been fitted and disseminated to many children and young adults throughout Tulare County.

12. Action: Vice Chair Nominations

Chair Wall shared that Vice Chair nominations are important especially if for any reason he cannot chair the meetings or might be out of town. He opened the floor for Vice Chair

nominations. Upon not hearing any nominations he encouraged Member Young who is an adventure sports store owner to consider being the Vice Chair. Hearing no other nominations, he asked for a vote and the committee unanimously agreed to nominate Member Young and Vice Chair. to Member Beal nominated Member Wall for the Chair position. Member Corvera seconded the nomination. None were opposed and Member Wall accepted the nomination. Nominations for vice chair was called for however no nominations were presented. Vice chair nominations was tabled for next month.

13. Action: Cancel meeting in November & select Thur. Dec 15th for the December ATAC Meeting

Chair Wall shared that the November 2022 ATAC meeting is on Thanksgiving Day and the December 2022 ATAC meeting would be just a few days before Christmas. Given the holidays, he suggested the committee consider canceling the November meeting and moving the December meeting up a few days. A proposed meeting date on December 15th would act as a substitute for the November meeting. Chair Wall called for a vote and the no committee members objected to the change in dates.

14. Other Business

Chair Wall asked the committee if there is any other business anyone would like to discuss. Staff Bhongir wanted to give a quick update on behalf of Officer Beal. He was not able to make the meeting today but wanted to share some unfortunate news. A fatality occurred last night on SR 63 in Orosi. This is an area where CHP has focused their pedestrian enforcement campaign but it appears that more has to be done in this area. for safety however The deceased was a local resident who was report not having wore any high-visibility clothing. saying No other business was reported.

15. Adjourn

Chair Wall moved to adjourn the meeting around 9:45AM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, at the TCAG office.