

TCAG Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 23, 2023

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 Assembly Bill 361, available at https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=20210220AB361

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 January 26, 2023 (Attached)
- 4) Action: Move March 23rd ATAC Meeting to March 30th
- 5) Direction: Formation of League Cycling Instructor Scholarship Subcommittee
- 6) Information: Project Implementation Status Update
- 7) Information: ATP Program Update
- 8) Information: Tulare County Public Health Bicycle and Pedestrian Fatality Update (See new attachment)
- 9) Information: Caltrans District 6 Update
- 10) Information: CHP Update
- 11) Information: Active Transportation Outreach Update
- 12) Other Business
- 13) Adjourn

TCAG Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) Meetings are scheduled monthly on the fourth Thursday of every month at 8:30 a.m. **The next scheduled ATAC meeting (*pending ATAC Board*)**

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

Eddie Wendt	City of Exeter
Curtis Cannon or Neyba Amezcua*	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 and ATAC Vice Chair
Jenn Garvin	Interest Group #2
Elaine Garrett or Bryan Patterson*	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

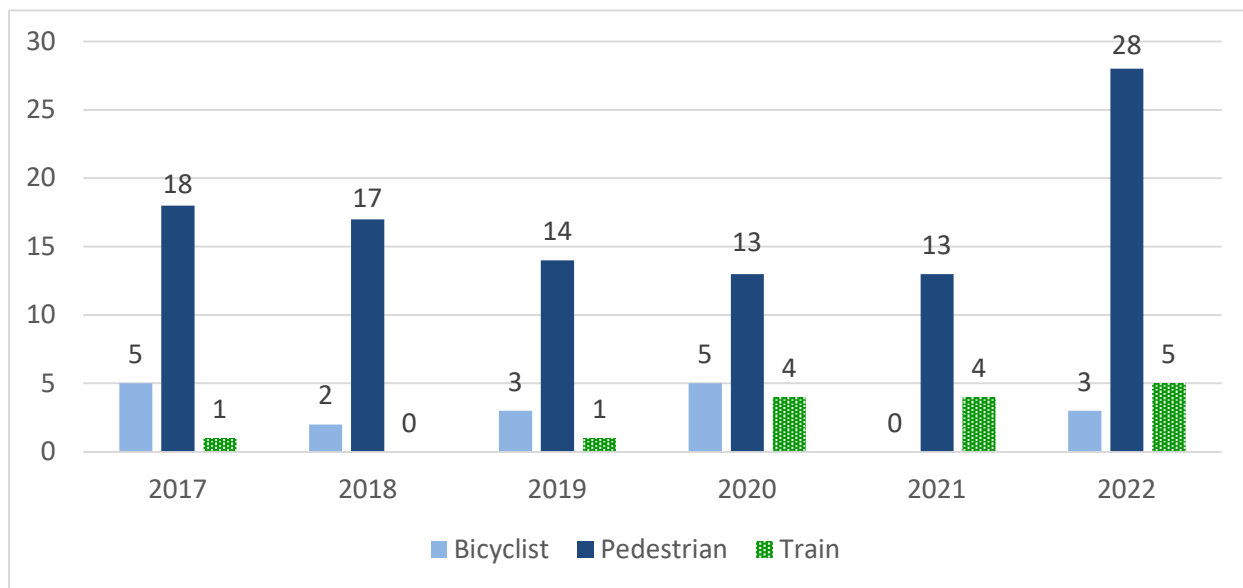
TCAG STAFF

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, TCAG Administrative Clerk I
Wendy Aguilera, TCAG Administrator Clerk II
Richard Tree, TCRTA Executive Director

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Tulare County Bicyclist & Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities, 2017-2022



Year	Bicyclist	Pedestrian	Train
2017	5	18	1
2018	2	17	0
2019	3	14	1
2020	5	13	4
2021	0	13	4
2022	3	28	5
2023	0	2	0

Age Group of Pedestrians

Age Group	2019-2021	2022
< 20	10.0%	14.3%
20-39	37.5%	28.6%
40-64	30.0%	39.3%
65+	22.5%	17.9%

Natural Lighting in Pedestrian Fatalities, 2022

Lighting	Number	Percent
Daylight	3	10.7%
Dawn/Dusk	4	14.3%
Dark	20	71.4%
Unknown	1	3.6%

Tulare County Association of Governments
Active Transportation Advisory Committee
January 26, 2023

ATTENDANCE LIST

Neyba Amezcua (-) Curtis Cannon (-)	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 (P)	City of Tulare
Rebecca Griswold(P)	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 (P)	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) David Deel (-)	Caltrans, District 6
Richard Tree (-)	Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA)
Michael Young (-)	Interest Group #1 (Adventure Sports store) and ATAC Vice Chair
Jenn Garvin (P)	Interest Group #2 (Porterville Unified School District CAPS)
Bryan Patterson (P) Elaine Garrett (P)	Interest Group #3 (Southern Sierra Cyclists)

TCAG Staff: Sheela Bhongir, Holly Gallo, Derek Winning, Giancarlo Bruno and Brideget Moore.

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting started at 8:36AM by Chair Mark Wall with introductions starting with Member Garrett and Patterson representing Interest Group #3 (Southern Sierra Cyclists), Member Corvera (City of Visalia), Member Dahler (representing the Citizens' Oversight Committee, Member Zavala (City of Porterville), Member Hernandez and Lau (Caltrans District 6), Member Griswold (City of Woodlake), guest speaker John Liu (representing Caltrans District 6 Maintenance and Operations), Member Minnick (Public Health Agency for the County of Tulare), Member Garvin representing Interest Group #2 (Porterville Unified School District CAPS) and Member Anaya (City of Tulare).

TCAG Staff present in-person were Winning, Moore and Bhongir. TCAG Staff present online was Gallo and Bruno.

2. Public Comments

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Public comments open and closed at 8:40.

3. Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2023 (Attached)

Member Minnick (County of Tulare Public Health) made a motion to approve the minutes upon a request to make a minor correction to December's ATAC meeting minutes. Member Minnick was not marked as present though she attended and gave a report at last month's meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Dahler (Citizens' Oversight Committee At Large #1).

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Information: League Cycling Instructor Seminar Schedule and Outline of the Curriculum (Attached)

Staff Bhongir presented this item as a great opportunity for ATAC, our member agencies and residents of Tulare County. She explained that the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) conducts a League Cycling Seminar (LCI) course - a two-and-half day rigorous training going through parking lot drills, bicycle etiquette and other training. Upon successful completion of the LCI course, a certificate would be issued to that cyclist who demonstrates confidence and competence to teach safe bicycle practices and skills to a variety of audiences. Staff Bhongir believes this training could be beneficial to all of our member agencies to assist with bicycle rodeos and education because the LAB is a well-known organization and leader in safe cycling practices. Staff Bhongir further emphasized that TCAG has already conducted many safe cycling outreach events, however a standard consensus on what safe bicycling practices entails, is not universally agreed upon.

Chair Wall chimed in to acknowledge and introduce Guest Speaker John Liu who has been instrumental in introducing the idea of Smart Cycling and LCI courses for Tulare County.

He had a limited amount of time he can spend at today's ATAC meeting and so wanted the committee to hear more about the program from John Liu. Before he spoke Chair Wall shared with the committee some of the LAB efforts and accomplishments achieved with Southern Sierra Cyclists and LAB. Last year in November, LAB conducted a Smart Cycling class in Visalia. Eight people attended that Smart Cycling class. Six of them were from Southern Sierra Cyclists who strongly support this program because the issue of safety has become a primary concern during many of the Southern Sierra Cyclists meetings as well as during many of the publicly-held ATAC meetings.

Chair Wall further shared some of the LCI related concerns that were brought up from some of our member agencies during past ATAC meetings. Liability is a primary concern for many cities. Chair Wall however shared that the LAB provides insurance to trained cycling instructors who have successfully completed a curriculum that has been vetted and approved by a number of local agencies and non-profit groups throughout the nation. If cities feel there is a risk to run safe cycling classes through their parks and recreation departments, then the

insurance that the League of American Bicyclists provides could help reduce this concern and to help make safe cycling classes feasible and practical. Chair Wall then turned the floor to John Liu, a Caltrans employee who currently holds cycling instructor insurance from the League of American Bicyclists. Guest speaker Liu shared that he completed his League Cycling Instructor training when it was offered in 2018 through the City of Fresno Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee in conjunction with the City of Fresno Parks Department. At that time, several of the City of Fresno Park Department employees also took the course because they conduct bike rodeos and go to schools on a regular basis. They took this course to further help equip them with best practices for safe bicycling.

The expectation from this course is that LCIs offer Smart Cycling classes to the community. Smart Cycling classes consist of classroom instruction with on-bike skills, but the classes can be tailored for different contexts. The LCI seminar is basically a train-the-trainer type of a program to equip cycling instructors with proper tools and methods to teach Smart Cycling classes. Guest speaker Liu feels this is a great opportunity to reach out to our communities, service groups and non-profits to educate the public on safe cycling which is just as important as having good quality infrastructure.

Chair Wall opened the floor to questions. Member Corvera inquired for information on a contact at the City of Fresno who can share more about the City's involvement and liability with the smart cycling classes. Speaker Liu said he will share a contact and recalls that it an ATP or OTS grant provided funding for the LCI seminar.

Staff Winning chimed in next to share thoughts about the LCI program from TCAG's perspective. He first thanked Mark and John for introducing these classes to the ATAC committee. Staff Winning shared that TCAG has been involved with bicycle safety education since the past six or seven years conducting countless outreach events and given away hundreds of bike helmets and other safety equipment primarily targeting elementary-aged students and disadvantaged communities. TCAG's outreach efforts have been performed through TCAG's Administration Department who are highly passionate about bicycle and pedestrian safety but have also been somewhat fatigued trying to run a regional bicycle and pedestrian safety outreach program.

Next month TCAG plans to ask the board for their approval to move forward with providing funding for this curriculum. TCAG has budgeted \$10,000 towards these efforts. From the \$10,000, about \$4,000 can possibly be used for the first round of scholarships, a potential second round of instruction and the remaining amount to support hosting the seminar and any other expense ancillary to that endeavor. Staff Winning said that TCAG is very supportive of this effort, however the agency cannot take-on the responsibility of a new program. TCAG supports the LCI efforts especially if some sort of synergy or coordination could happen between interested ATAC members and TCAG's outreach program.

Some of the reasons that TCAG cannot get involved in a new program are budgetary. Staff Winning explained that part of the reason is due to concerns related to a new census designation. The new census designation would change the status of TCAG from being the smallest big MPO in state of California to the largest small MPO. If this happens our budget will be significantly reduced. Other reasons include the possibility of an economic recession and the current fatigue experienced by some of our staff members. TCAG has been inundated with requests for bicycle safety, helmets and related outreach programs. The agency is looking towards supplementing our member agencies, such as local city staff and parks and recreation staff, with funding to continue and support efforts of the existing outreach program, which is of high-value to TCAG and its member agencies.

Staff Winning said he hopes through funding the LCI scholarships we will have a successful first round and that this will engender volunteerism from community members to maybe provide bicycle safety education and programs for high schools or other types of activities that would benefit the community. He further explained that if we start to see this type of success then we could see a second round occurring of LCI cycling instruction.

Staff Bhongir added to the discussion by asking each of the agencies participating in this meeting today to share a few thoughts (openly and candidly) about who the LCI program could potentially benefit their jurisdiction and communities. She turned the mic over to the City of Visalia to have them start out by sharing their thoughts on the LCI program. Member Corvera said the City of Visalia would need to dive a little deeper into the details of this program, but he would want to touch based with the City parks and recreation department and would like to reach out to the Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) regarding potential partnership that would benefit their students. He believes education like this is an important component to support multimodal transportation and encourage usage of active transportation facilities.

Staff Bhongir turned the mic over to the City of Tulare to have them share their thoughts on this program. Member Anaya started off saying thank you for this information and for John Liu to share the City of Fresno's LCI efforts. He feels this would be something of great interest for the City of Tulare. Currently the Parks department offers a variety of programs and activities, such as swim lessons to promote safe swimming practices and etiquette while recreating in pools. In a similar manner, these lessons can be geared towards recreational bicyclists and/or other community members using our public streets and spaces. Member Anaya further shared that the City of Tulare has the Santa Fe Trail that runs across the city. The City of Tulare wants to continue growing their walking and biking network making it safer and more visible. Classes such as Smart Cycling and LCI instruction can help normalize cycling activity and to support cycling as a mean of transportation in the context of a larger multimodal network. The library participates in many outreach activities and does have the space to potentially host events such as a bike rodeo. He can bring up the concept of LCIs to the City Manager and further explore how it can be of benefit to the parks department, library and other interested departments.

Staff Bhongir turned the mic over to the City of Porterville. She acknowledged that their regular member was not present, but their alternate, Luisa Zavala, was present. Member Zavala did recognize that the safety of bicycle riders is important for the community and with the current development of the Butterfield Stage Corridor, improvements to the Santa Fe byway, Tule River parkway the City of Porterville is invested in these improvements to make bicycle riding and pedestrian safety a priority. They would most likely welcome smart cycling classes in response to improving the safety and increased usage of their trails. They however will need to investigate the program further. Member Zavala added the City is currently working with students of the CAPS program on improving the Santa Fe Byway trail and therefore the smart cycling classes seem complimentary to current efforts.

Staff Bhongir thanked Member Zavala and then turned the mic over to the City of Woodlake. Member Griswold shared that these classes would be beneficial to the Woodlake community. The City of Woodlake is smaller in size than the other jurisdictions and all of the schools are located in one particular area of Woodlake. The City is actively trying to improve the multimodal transportation to that particular area where all the schools are located. The west side of the City is developing Antelope Valley Creek Park which will include a pump track and a bike area for students. The students were very vocal in their planning process of Antelope Valley Creek Park. Member Griswold can foresee a potential partnership with the school district and the parks and recreation department to encourage safe cycling practices. She further added that TCAG in the past has partnered with the Kiwanis Club to do a bike rodeo. The Kiwanis Club tries to do a bike rodeo once a year in the City of Woodlake. The police

department has also been very active in trying to hand out helmets and give youth safety accessories.

In terms of funding the LCI program and getting a LCI instructor in the Woodlake area, Member Griswold would have to reach out to various departments to get their buy-in. Personally a program like this sounds very beneficial however the City is spread very thin.

Staff Bhongir turned the mic to the County of Tulare. Member Winton thinks this is a fantastic program and would be beneficial to the County to encourage a few County staff to take the LCI training. Most of the bicycling activity happens in and around schools, so that would be an obvious area to target. Member Winton said the County already does a lot of outreach around complete streets and they are currently updating their complete streets plans. Perhaps some of the LCI curriculum could be integrated into the complete streets plans. He said he would need to further explore the County's Park and Recreations current activities and see if they would be interested.

Chair Wall requested if the Porterville CAPS program can share their thoughts from a school perspective. Member Garvin echoed the sentiment saying this program would be beneficial for the students. Currently CAPS is working with the City of Porterville on their Clean CA grant and to create campaigns to encourage more bicycle riding and helmet usage. Upon conducting surveys, the number of students who use helmets has been very low. Member Garvin, for example, said she was in a classroom on Monday of 15 students. Out of the 15 students, 11 of them knew how to ride a bike, but one only of them, upon her survey, shared they owned a helmet but don't use it on a regular basis. The City of Porterville has a high number of pedestrian crashes around the crosswalks so anything that we can do to keep our kids safe, especially when walking to school would be helpful. From her limited time here, she hasn't noticed many people riding their bicycles to school, but a lot do walk.

5. Action: Selection of a subcommittee to select League Cycling Instructor candidates

Before Staff Bhongir presented this item she was curious if the committee wanted to make a formal motion of some sort to provide a consensus of whether ATAC is supportive of the implementing the LCI program in their respective jurisdictions. However given the newness of the program, Staff Bhongir further commented that it might be too early to support that specific motion.

Chair Wall suggested that rather than making a vague motion to generally support the LCI program it might be more beneficial to specifically recommend a motion to approve a subcommittee to help select League Cycling Instructor candidates. Staff Bhongir added that this motion would require selected members to directly work with her to create a scholarship process to best elevate and select potential candidates. She added that this subcommittee would also help market this scholarship to various park and recreation departments and institutions such as CAPS. Staff Winning added that this subcommittee would also help ensure geographic representation of applicants to support all areas of the Tulare Region.

Chair Wall commented that given the initiative of Southern Sierra Cyclists (SSC) to introduce this idea to ATAC, it makes sense for at least one member of SSC to be a part of that subcommittee. Staff Winning asked Chair Wall to clarify whether or not a prerequisite is required to become an LCI. Chair Wall responded saying yes and that the Fresno County Bicycle Coalition (FCBC) is currently working to host another Smart Cycling class in Fresno and potentially another course here in Visalia. The Smart Cycling course is a shorter course that includes a 3-hour online classroom session and a 7-hour on-bike session. The LCI seminar however is a longer course that is about three days long.

Chair Wall requested a motion to recommending the League Cycling Instructor program, seminar and the formation of a subcommittee to select League Cycling Instructors. Member Minnick made that motion and it was seconded by Member Anaya.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Direction: Marketing the League Cycling Instructor Scholarship Opportunity

Staff Bhongir said she would like to work with that subcommittee to figure out the marketing of the league cycling instructor scholarship opportunity, including advertising the pre-requisite class. She said she can follow up on this item separately with the subcommittee to ensure a variety of groups are represented, such as Spanish speaking communities.

7. Information: Project Implementation Status Update

In the event of time, this item was tabled.

8. Information: ATP Program Update

Staff Winning shared that the applications from the MPO component were recently scored. The results have not been released yet. From the initial scoring, it looks like TCAG is looking towards potentially funding 4 projects through the MPO component.

Chair Wall shared that he was a part of that scoring committee, and each application was very diverse and represented different needs.

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

Member Minnick reported so far that in 2022 we have had 28 pedestrian fatality deaths. The amount increased by one since her last report. The recent fatality occurred in November in the City of Visalia. In terms of bicycle deaths, the year of 2022 had 3 fatalities and 1 bike-motorized related fatality. The year of 2022 also experienced 5 train vs pedestrian fatal accidents that all occurred in the City of Tulare.

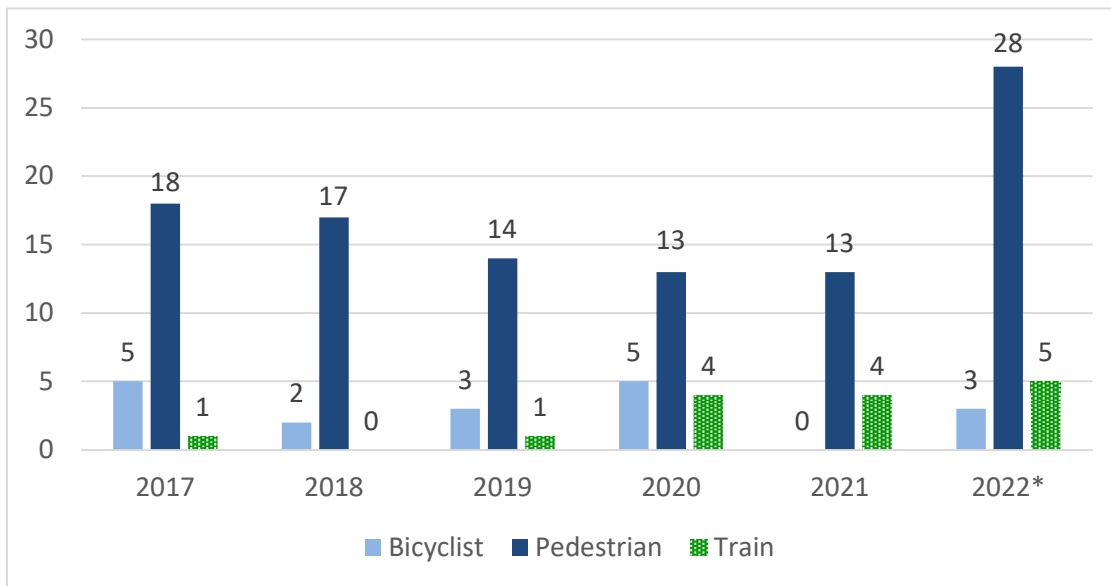
Good news to report is that the death certificates now indicate whether the person is homeless or not. This change occurred sometime mid-2022.

Member Minnick further shared information related to the age groups of the pedestrian fatalities. Fourteen percent were under the age of 20, 28.6% were between the ages of 20 to 29, 39.3% were from the ages of 40 to 64 and 17.9% were 65 years of age or older. Member Minnick said there was an even spread of fatalities among all age groups.

Chair Wall requested if a time-of-day analysis could be provided during the next meeting comparing dawn and dusk incidents. Member Minnick said she can provide that information during the next meeting.

She also presented a draft report showing the fatalities from 2017 to 2022. The draft report is included below in the minute below:

Tulare County Bicyclist & Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities, 2017-2022



	Bicyclist	Pedestrian	Train
2017	5	18	1
2018	2	17	0
2019	3	14	1
2020	5	13	4
2021	0	13	4
2022*	3	28	5

*as of 1/13/2022

Age Group 2022	Pedestrians
< 20	14.3%
20-39	28.6%
40-64	39.3%
65+	17.9%

10. Information: Caltrans District 6 Update CHP Update

Member Hernandez announced information on an upcoming Caltrans District 6 Sustainable Transportation Planning grants workshop to be held on Tuesday January 31st. Those applications are due March 9th 2023. He further shared information on the Clean California Local Grant program.

Information on the Sustainable Transportation Planning grant due March 9th can be found online: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/transportation-planning/division-of-transportation-planning/regional-and-community-planning/sustainable-transportation-planning-grants>

Information on the Clean California Local Grant Program can be found online: <https://cleancalifornia.dot.ca.gov/local-grants/local-grant-program>

11. Information: CHP Update

Member Beal shared that the CHP is continuing to work on pedestrian and bicycle safety. Member Beal shared that seat belt compliance has been down. Over the past several years California has been at around 96% of seat belt compliance. The percentage has now dropped to 92%. CHP is trying to push more safety education.

Member Beal lastly shared that next month he will be introducing his replacement for ATAC. He has a new assignment in Sacramento.

Chair Wall inquired about any recent changes in laws concerning bicyclist changing lanes. He was not aware of any recent changes, but he is aware of the new Jaywalking legislation. Since the passage of that Jaywalking act, CHP officers can no longer conduct an enforcement stop for someone who has jaywalked unless there is a clear safety issue. So, officers need to be clear on why they are stopped someone unless there is a clear safety issue. The new legislation prevents officers from giving a verbal warning to stay safe.

Staff Bhongir shared an anecdote of her mother receiving a Jaywalking ticket in 1987 in Los Angeles. Her mother was just a few steps behind her father when they were walking across the street. She commented that the jaywalking law is arbitrary and is glad that tickets can no longer be issued if a safety issue wasn't present.

12. Information: Active Transportation Outreach Update

Staff Moore shared a few events that are coming down the pipeline. On February 4th TCAG is participating in a ProYouth Heart Color Run and they also plan to participate in the Lindsay Health Fair coming up on March 25th. Her team is also preparing for a bicycle education campaign during the month of May at the Rawhide stadium. She further shared that her team is working with Univision to set up a Spanish language campaign during Bike Month. Car seat safety events will also be occurring in between these events, so the outreach team will be very busy in the next few months.

13. Other Business

No other business was reported.

14. Adjourn

Chair Wall moved to adjourn the meeting at 10AM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, at the TCAG office.