

THE SUN-GAZETTE

TCAG rolls out 2026 LocalMotion award winners

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By: Sun-Gazette Staff



VISALIA– The Tulare County Association of Governments announced their winners at the bi-annual LocalMotion awards, recognizing various people and projects in the county.

On June 17, an announcement revealed the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) 2026 LocalMotion award winners. The LocalMotion awards took place at the Hyde, 3200 W. Mineral King Ave., in Visalia on May 27.

“The Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) is proud to announce the winners of the 2026 LocalMotion Awards, a program dedicated to celebrating the

people, projects and partnerships that are shaping the future of transportation in Tulare County,” said the announcement.

The LocalMotion awards are held every two years and highlights the innovation, collaboration and dedication that is needed to build safer roads, enhancing active transportation, expanding transit options and strengthening regional mobility.

The announcement said the awards honor the work of local jurisdictions, state partners, community organizations and advocates who continue to invest in transportation solutions that support economic vitality, improve access and enhance quality of life for Tulare County residents.

“TCAG congratulates each recipient for their exceptional contributions and dedication to building a stronger, safer and more connected Tulare County,” said the announcement.

Transportation projects do not happen in isolation, said the announcement. In a region as diverse and geographically connected as Tulare County, the partnerships made are essential. Cities, Tulare County, transit operators, Caltrans, nonprofit organizations and community advocates work together to secure funding, develop forward-thinking plans and deliver projects to benefit the entire region.

Recognizing these efforts is critical as strong transportation networks rely on cooperation, shared vision and a commitment to public service, said the announcement. The LocalMotion awards honor not only the results, but also the teamwork that makes the progress possible.

A complete list of the 2026 LocalMotion Award recipients include:

Bike or Pedestrian Project: The city of Exeter for the Downtown Exeter Street Light Project and the city of Porterville for the Tule River Bike Trail.

Innovative & Sustainable Transportation: Caltrans for the Chester H. Warlow Safety Roadside Rest Area; the city of Dinuba for Safe Streets 4 All; the city of Visalia for the Riggan Widening from Mooney to Conyer; and Self Help Enterprises for the Rancho Colegio Housing Project.

Outstanding Road Project: the city of Tulare for the Tulare-Morrison Roundabout and the Tulare County Resource Management Agency for the Avenue 44 and Road 96 Roundabout.

Outstanding Transit Project: The city of Porterville for its transit system, the city of Visalia for its Visalia Connect system and RIDE Tulare County for its Microtransit services.

Outstanding Transportation Beautification Project: The City of Farmersville for the SR 198 Gateway Project, the city of Lindsay for its Olive Bowl Park Project and the city of Woodlake the Clean CA SR 216 project.

Outstanding Transportation Advocate: TCAG Member at Large, Pamela K. Whitmire; and Sit Right Child Passenger Safety.

Outstanding Public Employee: Caltrans employee Nabeelah Abi-Rached.

Outstanding Elected Official: Senator Melissa Hurtado

Excellence in Statewide Support: Lee Ann Eager of the California Transportation Commission.