

# Fowler Community Executive Summary

## Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training

The Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training (CPBST) is a statewide project of California Walks (Cal Walks) and the University of California at Berkeley’s Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC). The CPBST engages residents and safety advocates to develop a community-driven action plan to improve walking and biking safety in their communities.

The Fowler CPBST was collaboratively planned and facilitated by Fresno County Department of Public Health, the Planning Committee, Cal Walks, and SafeTREC (Project Team) to:

1. Improve walking and biking safety in Fowler; and
2. Improve the connectivity between east and west Fowler.

The June 30, 2020 training consisted of:

- Walking and biking assessments along three (3) key routes;
- An overview of the 3 E’s strategies to improve walking and biking safety using the intersectional 3 E’s framework including: Equity, Engineering, Education; and
- Action planning sessions to prioritize and plan for community programs, and infrastructure projects.

### Data

The Project Team and Planning Committee reviewed data which demonstrated a safety concern in the area. In Fowler, from 2014 to 2018, there were six pedestrian victims, one of whom was severely injured, and two bicycle victims, one of whom was also severely injured. A full discussion of pedestrian and bicycle collisions can be found in the CPBST report.

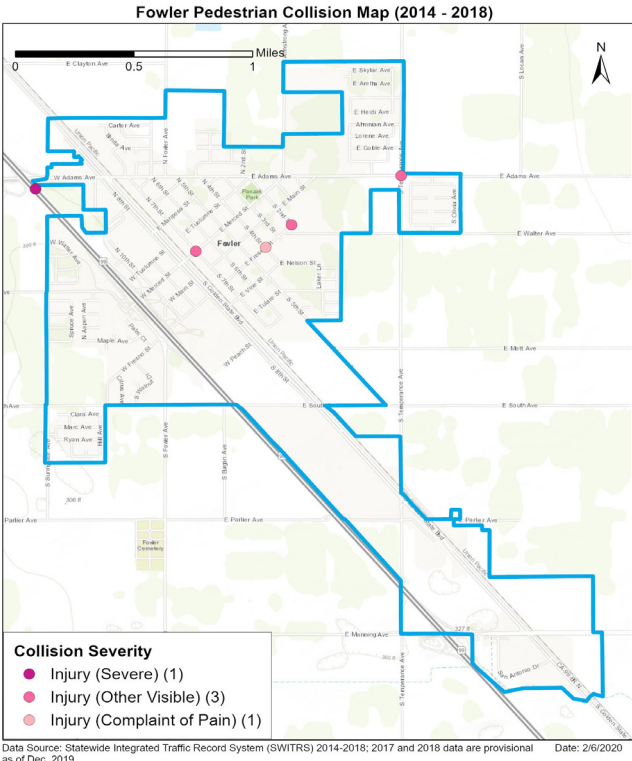


Figure 1: Pedestrian Injury Collisions (2014-2018)

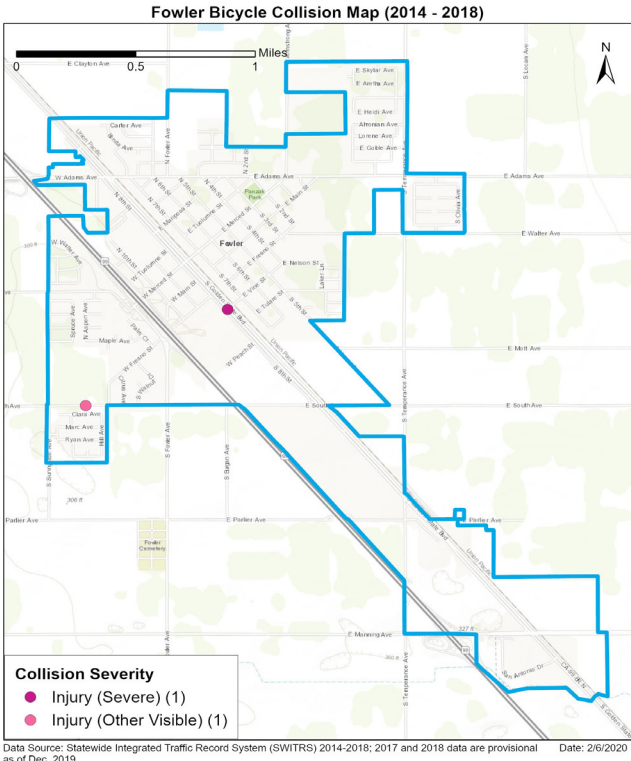


Figure 2: Bicycle Injury Collisions (2014-2018)

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

The planning committee consisted of representatives from City of Fowler Planning Department, City of Fowler Public Works Department, City of Fowler Recreation Department, District 6 Caltrans, Fowler City Council, Fowler Police Department, Fowler Unified School District, Fresno County Department of Public Health, Fresno County Schools, Fresno Housing Authority, Public Health Advocates, Transformative Climate Communities Bicycle Outreach, Valley Children's Healthcare and Safe Kids Central California.

## WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Workshop participants were community residents and/ or representatives from the Planning Committee, and City of Fowler City Council Members.

For a more detailed discussion of the workshop, please download the full report on SafeTREC or Cal Walks' websites.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

## Walking & Biking Assessment

Workshop participants conducted walking and biking assessments along three (3) key routes used by residents to walk and bike in Fowler. Participants were asked to:

- Identify community assets;
- Assess infrastructure conditions; and
- Observe how road users are engaging with the built-environment.

Participants expressed concerns around:

- Uncontrolled crossings
- Visibility Challenges
- Sidewalk Conditions
- Missing Curb Ramps
- City Connectivity
- Crossing Challenges
- Lack of Shade
- Bike Infrastructure
- Road User Behavior

## Community Recommendations

During the action planning sessions, participants prioritized and outlined preliminary plans for the following community programs and infrastructure projects aimed at increasing the health and safety of the community:

- Crosswalk and Facilities Enhancements at the Merced Street/Golden State Boulevard intersection
- Fowler Parks Grand Re-opening and City Connectivity Event
- Family Bike Education Program

## Cal Walks & SafeTREC Recommendations

The following are recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements:

- Establish a City of Fowler Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.
- Establish an Earn-a-Bike program for Fowler youth.
- Develop a community-led walking and biking safety messaging campaign.
- Develop a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan for Fremont Elementary School, Fowler Academy Continuation School, and Fowler High School.
- Install Creative Crosswalks at key intersections.
- Conduct a Community Tree and Landscaping Assessment.
- Conduct bicycle counts and community surveys.
- Install temporary high-visibility buffered bike lanes on East Fresno Street.
- Pursue the California Department of Public Health's Kid's Plate Grant.