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## **Office of Traffic Safety Awards \$200,000 Grant to Kern County Public Works for Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program**

**KERN COUNTY, Calif.** December 9, 2025 – Kern County Public Works announced today that it has received a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to enhance its Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program. The funding will help promote safe habits among pedestrians and cyclists while reinforcing the responsibility drivers have to watch for people sharing our roads and pathways. The grant will support program activities through September 30, 2026.

"We are excited to receive this grant, which will allow us to significantly expand our bicycle and pedestrian safety program," said Kern County Public Works Manager, Yolanda Alcantar. "By focusing on education, awareness, and promoting safe practices, we aim to reduce crashes and prevent injuries. Ultimately, we're working toward building more walkable and bike-friendly neighborhoods where everyone can travel safely with confidence."

**Grant funds will support the following activities focused on bicycle and pedestrian safety:**

- Participate in traffic safety fairs and community outreach events
- Develop bicycle/pedestrian safety educational materials to be distributed during classroom presentations, workshops, and community events
- Distribute pedestrian/bicycle safety items to increase safety and visibility at no cost to youth or community members in need, who received traffic safety education during community events
- Community bicycle and walk "audits" of streets with high rates of pedestrian and/or bicyclist fatalities and serious injury crashes
- Purchase and distribute helmets to children in need, and helmet fitting
- Community and school educational presentations
- Conduct bicycle rodeos
- Conduct community bicycle rides providing bicycle safety education to promote safe cycling in the community with an effort to reach bicyclists
- Conduct pedestrian walking field trips or on-foot safety training with an effort to reach youth
- Conduct bicycle safety and maintenance workshops to educate community members on how to repair and maintain their bicycles and provide them with traffic safety rules

"Through safety programs and strong partnerships, we are working toward a future where everyone walking and biking in California can travel safely," said OTS Director Stephanie Dougherty. "By supporting projects that encourage people to prioritize safety in their daily choices, we are creating a strong road safety culture together."

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

***Kern County Public Works** is a department of the County of Kern and is responsible for the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of roads, bridges, traffic signals, sanitary landfills, and publicly owned facilities. Kern County Public Works strives to provide quality public services including road permit inspection, building permit inspection and plan check, code compliance, engineering and surveying review of proposed land development, solid waste and hazardous waste disposal, wastewater treatment, public transportation, and community outreach, which serve to protect and enhance the lives of the people of Kern County. For more information, visit [www.kernpublicworks.com](http://www.kernpublicworks.com) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @kerncountypublicworks.*