



NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY COVER MEMO

SUBJECT

Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) Member Appointments

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) Board approve the appointments of Kathleen Kittel and Thomas Gorton, both representing the City of Napa, to the ATAC for a two (2) year term.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ATAC is made up of eleven members with representation that mirrors the voting structure of the NVTA Board. Committee structure consists of four members representing the City of Napa, two members representing the County of Napa, two members representing the City of American Canyon, one member representing the Town of Yountville, one member representing the City of St. Helena, and one member representing the City of Calistoga. Board action would appoint two new members to serve on the Active Transportation Advisory Committee

FISCAL IMPACT

None



NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Board Agenda Memo

TO: NVTA Board of Directors
FROM: Kate Miller, Executive Director
REPORT BY: Patrick Band, Associate Planner/Program Administrator
(707) 259-8781 / Email: pband@nvta.ca.gov
SUBJECT: Active Transportation Advisory Committee Member Appointments

RECOMMENDATION

That the Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) Board approve the appointments of Katherine Kittel and Thomas Gorton, both representing the City of Napa, to the ATAC for a two (2) year term.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None

BACKGROUND

The City of Napa has four (4) representatives on the NVTA Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC). One position expired in July 2024, the other has been vacant since 2022 despite ongoing active recruitment by NVTA and the City. The Napa City Council approved the appointments of Katherine Kittel and Thomas Gorton at their April 1, 2025 meeting to serve as representatives on the ATAC for a two-year term.

Ms. Kittel is a 21-year resident of the City of Napa, is a bike commuter, and has been actively involved in various community organizations. She is interested in serving on the ATAC to support and encourage greater use of active transportation in the city and county. Mr. Gorton is also a long-time resident of the City of Napa and is actively involved with Napa RCD, Napa County Bicycle Coalition and Ole Health and is interested in advocating for projects that will enable safe walking and biking.

ATAC has three (2) remaining openings; one member representing the City of American Canyon and two representing the County of Napa. NVTA staff are actively recruiting to fill these vacancies.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board could decide not to approve these appointments, which would leave additional vacancies on the ATAC.

STRATEGIC GOALS MET BY THIS PROPOSAL

Goal 1 – Serve the transportation needs of the entire community regardless of age, income, or ability.

The NVTA ATAC committee advises the Board on matters pertaining to the active transportation needs of the community and supports efforts towards sustainable transportation goals in the Valley.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Katherine Kittel Application (redacted)
- (2) Thomas Gorton Application (redacted)

Profile

Katherine

First Name

Kittel

Last Name

Middle
Initial

Email Address

Street Address

City

Suite or Apt

State

Postal Code

Mailing Address (if different than Resident Address above)

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residence in the City of Napa:

21 years

Length of Residence in the County of Napa:

21 years

Registered to vote in the City of Napa?☒ Yes ☐ No

Employer

Job Title

Ethnicity *☒ Hispanic

Interests & Experiences**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) Active Transportation Advisory Committee
(ATAC) : Submitted

Community Service Experience:

I served in my homeowners association for seven years as volunteer pool manager, and as board president for 5 years. I fed and cared for all animals at Connolly Ranch on Sundays for seven years.

Education:

San Jose State University, BA Anthropology, French Monterey Institute International Studies, MA International Policy Studies

Other relevant experience or expertise:

I have biked or walked to work year round for most of my 38 years career: Munich, Germany - used bicycle to travel 3 miles each way daily to school Stanford - bicycle 2 miles each way University of Washington - walked 1.5 miles each way Bell Wine Cellars - bicycle 9 miles one way Napa Valley College - bicycle 6.5 miles each way I also use bike to run errands around town on weekend, and walk an annual average of 3.2 miles per day, often in neighborhoods around Napa, and Yountville.

Additional Questions

What is your understanding of the role and responsibility of this board?

I expect this group to review staff reports and proposals and make recommendations to the transportation agency.

Have you ever attended a meeting of this board? If so, how many?

no

What duties of this board are most interesting to you?

Review and understand the issues behind the decisions made and planning goals for active transportation.

What activities of this board are least interesting to you?

Can't think of any

What programs or projects would you like to see improved or implemented?

I would like to see the board make recommendations that encourage greater use of active transportation in city and county of Napa. It is a small flat valley that anyone can get around in without using a car. We might consider more group activities, such as neighborhood bike rides, closing off certain streets once a month, bike buses for children, in which several adults ride through neighborhoods collecting children on bikes as the group rides safely to school. Bike lanes could use improved sweeping, and when road repairs are made, extra effort should be made to leave patches across the bike lane smooth so as not to create dangerous pits and bumps for riders. Streets with long stretches without driveways, entry/exits, crossroads should be identified for bike lanes because they are safest. It would be better if buses were equipped with a larger space at the back of the bus to transport bikes, rather than having the racks at the front. The racks are too high off the ground for an average female to lift bike onto. I've struggled many times. Also, with only two, the racks might be full, or a bus arrives that doesn't have a rack at all, thereby discouraging regular use. Also, it would be impossible to lift an e-bike (heavier) onto those racks for a one ride up the valley for a recreational or commuter ride back.

How would you approach improving these project(s) or program(s)?

Use my experience as an active transportation user, to offer ideas, solutions (including international), ways to market new programs, find funding and generally encourage the staff, who are doing their best.

Are you involved in any organizations or activities that may result in a conflict of interest if you are appointed to this board?

no

Please list two local references and their phone numbers:

How did you learn of this vacancy?

☒ Internet

Profile

Thomas R Gorton
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

City

Suite or Apt

State

Postal Code

Mailing Address (if different than Resident Address above)

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residence in the City of Napa:

18 years

Length of Residence in the County of Napa:

19 years

Registered to vote in the City of Napa?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Trinchero Family
Estates/Sutter Home Winery
Inc
Employer

Business Intelligence
Manager
Job Title

Ethnicity *

☒ Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Interests & Experiences

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) Active Transportation Advisory Committee
(ATAC) : Submitted

Community Service Experience:

Various volunteering engagements with: Napa RCD, Napa Bike Coalition, OLE Health.

Education:

B.A. Economics - Case Western Reserve University 2004

Other relevant experience or expertise:

Strong analytical skills, collaborative. Cyclist and advocate for non-car-based transportation.

Additional Questions

What is your understanding of the role and responsibility of this board?

Advise NVTA on plans for development of active transportation in Napa Valley. Awareness of local priorities for walking and biking.

Have you ever attended a meeting of this board? If so, how many?

No

What duties of this board are most interesting to you?

I'm interested to connect more with the community and advocate for projects that will enable safe walking and cycling.

What activities of this board are least interesting to you?

It all seems interesting!

What programs or projects would you like to see improved or implemented?

In addition to pushing forward on completing the Vine Trail, I'd like to see programs that can help shift more commutes/trips to active methods.

How would you approach improving these project(s) or program(s)?

Increase outreach/publicity of safe, active transportation resources to encourage more members of the community to walk/bike. Study and improve safety of high-traffic intersections (such as Vine Trail crossing of Redwood Road)

Are you involved in any organizations or activities that may result in a conflict of interest if you are appointed to this board?

I donate annually to bike-related organizations such as Vine Trail and Napa Bike. I don't anticipate that this would result in conflict of interest.

Please list two local references and their phone numbers:

How did you learn of this vacancy?

☒ Internet