

Inside City Hall

Beyond the headlines

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AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA

Get a Glance of Lance!

In its fourth year, the Amgen Tour of California, now considered the biggest cycling road race in the U.S., comes to Visalia. Stage 5 will start at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in downtown Visalia and end 134.3 miles later in Paso Robles.

In order to accommodate an estimated crowd of anywhere from 5,000 to 15,000 individuals coming into downtown Visalia for the Stage 5 Start, parking restrictions and street closures will be in place to minimize congestion and ensure the safety of both participants and the public.

Parking access for Thursday, Feb. 19, is as follows:

- The public lot at the northeast corner of Acequia and Court will be closed Thursday until 11 a.m. for use by the media and emergency services.
- The parking garage at Acequia and Bridge will be closed late Wednesday night through Thursday until 11 a.m. for Race Officials, Race VIPs, and Comfort Suite guests.
- The parking lot directly south of the Visalia Convention Center, facing Mineral King Avenue, will be closed from 5 p.m. Wednesday night until 10 a.m. Thursday for use by Race Volunteers.
- The Visalia Convention Center's east parking area will be closed from 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, until 11 a.m. Thursday for use by the Race Teams.
- The parking lot on the east side of City Hall East will not be closed during the race, however access from 8:30 to 10 a.m. will be difficult due to road closures and projected traffic during those times.

Street closures will begin at about 7:30 a.m. Thursday, with the exception of Acequia Avenue, which will be closed at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, between Court and Bridge streets. The remainder of Acequia Avenue, from Locust to Santa Fe Streets, will be closed Thursday morning, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Court and Locust Streets will be closed down no later than 8:45 a.m. Thursday. The roadways should all be opened up by 10:30 a.m. except for Acequia Avenue between Court and Bridge Street, which should be opened up around noon.



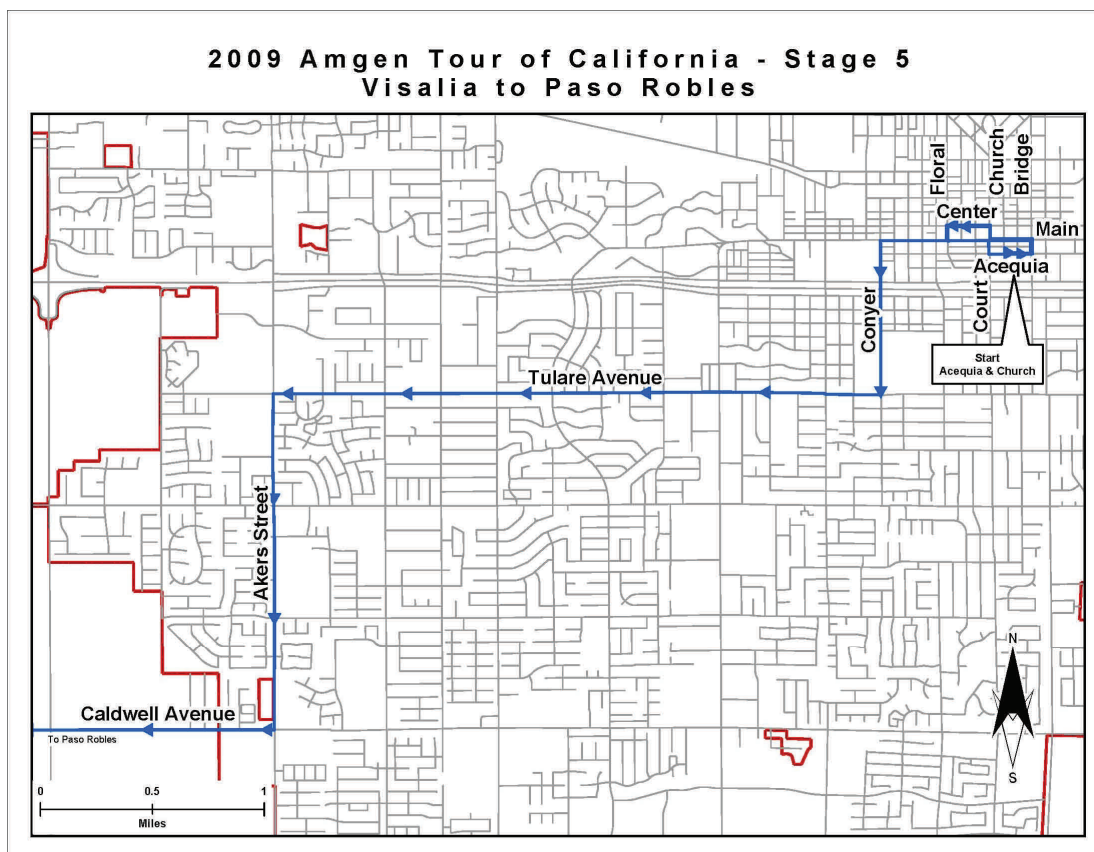
Race Specs

When: Stage 5 of the Amgen Tour of California starts at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in downtown Visalia.

Neutral zone: Stage 5 begins on Acequia Avenue and make a 1-1/2 mile loop through downtown Visalia. The start of Stage 5 includes a parade for the cyclists, giving fans a chance to see what they do best. Cyclists will hit Bridge, Main and Court Street, Center Avenue and Floral Street.

To learn more: Go to www.amgentourofcalifornia.com.

Street closures are as follows: Main Street between Jacob and Santa Fe; Center Street between West and Church; Conyer between Center and Mineral King; Stevenson between Center and Acequia; Johnson between Center and Acequia; Willis between Center and Acequia; West between Center and Acequia; Floral between Oak and Acequia; Encina between Oak and Main; Locust between Oak and Acequia; Court between Oak and Mineral King; Church between Center and Acequia; Garden between Center and Main; and Bridge between Center and Willow.



Best Viewing Locations

1 – The Heart of the Start - In the heart of Downtown Visalia, the official start is located at Church Street and Acequia Avenue. This is also where the stage for the rider's official sign-in is located. Visitors and spectators will enjoy the opportunity to experience "autograph alley" in the rider sign-in area.

2 – Team Talk - The team areas will be located just south of the intersection of Acequia Avenue and Bridge Street (just east of the sign-in stage near the Convention Center) in the City parking lots. This is a must-visit locale as the team mechanics will be busy preparing the riders' machines for the long day's journey to Paso Robles. Riders may also be available for autographs here as well.

3 – Best Lap - There will be a parade lap of the Main Street area that encompasses the following streets; Acequia, Bridge, Main, Court, Center and Floral. Any corner in this entire parade area offers the opportunity to see the world class field of professional cyclists (a hint: the corner of Court and Main offers a dual direction opportunity!).

4 – Main Street USA - Main Street is also the route for the entire peloton and race caravan to begin to traverse Visalia for the exit to the actual start of the day's race.

5 – Get Outta town: The exit route will take the race caravan through the following residential and commercial streets; Main, Conyer, Tulare and Akers. Once at Akers and Whitendale, the race is on!

CITIZENS IN THE KNOW RETURNS: The City's "Citizens in the Know" program returns this Spring. The six-week sessions begin Wednesday, April 15, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Visalia City Hall, 707 W. Acequia Ave. "Citizens in the Know" features Council members and City staff who will present information on Visalia's history, planning, public safety, services, and the Council's vision for the future. The program will run for six consecutive Wednesday nights through May 20. An optional city tour and session on organizational management will be offered on May 27. To participate, citizens must be a resident of Visalia, be at least 18 years of age, and commit to attending all six weeks of the program. Enrollment is limited to up to 25 eligible applicants. Applications are available on-line at www.ci.visalia.ca.us, and are due by Friday, March 13, by FAX at 713-4800 or by mail or hand-delivered at 425 E. Oak St., Suite 301, Visalia, CA 93291. Contact Community Relations Manager Nancy Loliva at 713-4535 or by email at nloliva@ci.visalia.ca.us for more information.

SANTA FE OVERCROSSING GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY: "A Bridge of the Future" is the theme for the upcoming groundbreaking ceremony for the Santa Fe Overcrossing. The ceremony is set for 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20 at the Santa Fe Bridge, north of Highway 198. In the event of rain, the event will be held in the breezeway between the Visalia Convention Center and City Hall East.

Inside City Hall is a publication of the City of Visalia.

For more information, visit the City's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us, email nloliva@ci.visalia.ca.us or call 713-4535