

STNC Safe Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting
S-T branch of LA Public Library, 7771 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, CA.

November 27, 2018

1. Call to Order by Pat Kramer, chairperson of STNC's Safe Traffic and Transportation Committee, at 6:34PM in the meeting room of the S-T branch of LA Public Library, 7771 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, CA.

Present were: Pat Kramer, Jerry Sherman, Hrant Vartzbedian, David "Doc" DeMulle, Dyan McManus, Cindy Cleghorn, Lydia Grant, Joie Hancock, John Yard, Javier Sanchez and Tim Fremaux.

2. Review of Vision and Mission of STAT: Pat Kramer read the mission and vision of the new STAT committee:: Reviewing issues that have not yet been resolved, following up on any new issues, coming up with ideas on ways to better educate the public to lower the # of accidents/fatalities, improve bicycle safety, and generally be a spokesperson as a committee to the LADOT, Council Office, Caltrans, Metro, LAPD, Sheriffs' and state legislators on issues impacting public safety on our roads. From this, she stated that the purpose of the committee would be to identify solutions to the issues faced and to work with the various City departments to provide constructive solutions as well as to interface with the local schools to provide an educational component for students, our next generation of drivers. Kids can also influence their parents and neighbors to be proactive about safe driving.

3. STAT Community Update from local reps and officials:

Pat said there will be an update every month to chart the progress or different transportation related events in our community. To that end, she gave the following update on behalf of CD7:

From Eve Sinclair, CD7: Two lefthand traffic signals have been approved for Oro Vista and Foothill and Mt. Gleason and Foothill. CD7 is looking at possible sources for funding these projects with LADOT.

Pat received an email from Pastor Aaron Schwartzbart of MOTORGOSPEL Ministries who said he would try to make it to the meeting, later, to talk about what he is doing to lessen street racing problems.

Pat stated that Sargeant Jesse Ojeda was not able to make it to the meeting but sent an email regarding the formation of the LAPD's new Volunteer Citizen Patrol (VSP) which will train stakeholders to watch for and report back on unsafe motorists, traffic violations and other crimes on the streets of Sunland-Tujunga. The volunteers will be given uniforms and a vehicle and assigned parking locations to observe any illegal activities but will not be allowed to interact with those committing crimes. She will get more information on this program for the next meeting and invite the Sargeant back in January for a presentation.

4. Introductions: Pat asked each person present to introduce themselves, their affiliations in the community and what they consider the priorities to be for the STAT committee.

Gerry Sherman is a landlord and a member of the STNC Beautification Committee, and CPAB. He said aggressive drivers are the main problem. Could insurance companies help in some way? LAPD Motor Bureau is responsible for putting traffic cops on bikes.

Hrant Vartzbedian – Neighborhood Watch can help. Keep reporting! Enlarge Neighborhood Watch. Include businesses to create a Business Watch on Foothill Blvd.

David "Doc" DeMulle – Editor of Foothill Paper. Our last 6 fatalities all involved DUI or pot. An LAPD Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST) should video offenders at stop signs. Mount a Shame Campaign. LAFD and coroner have useful stats on traffic fatalities. The dollar fine for a DUI is 10 times the fine for a hit n run if perp returns to scene shortly.

Dyan McManus – Foothill Paper. Drive defensively.

Cindy Cleghorn – Longtime S-T and Neighborhood Council activist. Grateful for this committee. Long needed. Curious how will it relate to Land Use Committee when new developments or street changes come along. Suggests painting white bicycle images in road. Stripe more intersections, do it better and renew striping often. Partner with other groups. She is helping CD7 get funding.

John Yard – Sunland resident who is interested in being on the committee and has been watching events unfold with the High Speed Rail.

Javier Sanchez – Attending to find out more about this committee. His residence is on Foothill Boulevard.

Lydia Grant – Board member of STNC and former commissioner with the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. Has been involved in improving education in the local community and in working with the schools on getting messaging out to kids on safe driving.

Joie Hancock – Sunland resident who chairs a non-profit that focuses on safe driving – S-T SAFE.

5. Establish STAT Committee & Subcommittees: In addition to those who previously made a commitment to serve on this committee, which include: Pat, Nina Royal, Barbara Rowe, Gerry Sherman, Hrant Vartzbedian, Jennifer Sonalia, John Clausen and Jon von Gunten, plus John Yard possibly Doc de Mulle:

- Business Signage – Hrant & John C.
- Education – Jennifer & Lydia
- Police Enforcement – Nina, Jerry & Jon
- Land Use-oriented Traffic Issues – Cindy
- Neighborhood Watch/Surveillance – Jon, Babs, Hrant & Doc
- LADOT, CD7 and State Legislature – Pat, Lydia & Jennifer

Pat suggested possibly adding two more subcommittees:

- Bicycle Safety – Barbara Rowe, Cindy and Joie Hancock
- Street Racing – Aaron S.

6. Question and Answer with LADOT's Tim Fremaux, Senior Transportation Engineer, San Fernando Valley District Operations. (See report attached)

7. Next STAT meeting: Nov 27th at the Library at 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

8. Meeting Adjourned 7:50 p.m.

-Minutes by Jon von Gunten-