

Safe Traffic and Transportation (STAT) Committee Meeting

Zoom on 6/22/2021

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Pat Kramer convened the meeting at 6:01 PM. Quorum achieved with six members. Pat took role, then explained she will present all STAT's new-member-applicants to the July Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council meeting for their near-certain endorsement/inclusion.

Present were:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Pat Kramer, Chair	Cindy Cleghorn, STNC & Moderator
Jon von Gunten, Cochair	Roger Swartz
Babz Rowe	Michelle Wadler, STNC
Levon Parian	Leny Freeman, STNC
Gerald Sherman	Claire Gordon, STNC
George Arakel	Karen Perdue, STNC
	James Arias

2. **Mission Statement:** *The mission of the STAT committee is to lobby for safety and improved enforcement of the streets in Sunland-Tujunga and to introduce programs that assist with this effort.*

3. Introduction of Attendees:

Barbara Rowe interested in cyclists and wheelchair road safety and their impact on traffic.

Levon Parian, longtime member of STAT, lives on Tujunga Canyon Boulevard just past the curve going downhill and has witnessed several accidents as they have crashed into his property.

George Arakel, longtime resident and committee member who is working to get an additional stop sign on Elmhurst by Tujunga Canyon Boulevard, now a local speedway.

Gerald Sherman, STAT member since its formation. Says that people's bad driving influences or indicates their attitudes toward other aspects of their lives. Traffic stops can also help reduce our area's drug problem. STAT needs to go to a City Council meeting to request more funding.

Cindy Cleghorn, feels the STAT committee is doing a fabulous job. She is keeping an eye on LADOT and informed us of an upcoming program called TDM.

Claire Gordon, newly elected STNC Rep for Region 2, a 22-year resident, has been interested and worried since her kids were small.

Leny Freeman, newly elected STNC Rep for Region 1. Safe traffic was one of his objectives in running for the Board. Speed is nearly always a factor in accidents.

Michelle Wadler, newly elected STNC Board as Stakeholder Rep, interested in traffic because she walks her kids to school. Wants more sidewalks and speedhumps locally, as they can help reduce speed.

Karen Perdue, newly elected Region 3 Rep, lives two blocks from Foothill Bl. Just hearing races and speeders at night scares her for kids and pedestrians.

Roger Swartz, resident since 1959, wants to join STAT, has long been very involved in Neighborhood Watch and Citizen-Police Advisory Board (C-PAB).

James Arias from Pacoima. Concerned that Whiteman Airport will be turned into low-income or homeless housing. Concerned about intersection "takeovers." Mentioned a shooting on Pope Av. in Sylmar.

4. **Approval of the Minutes** from the May 25, 2021 meeting: (Gerry Sherman/George Arakel) moved approval of the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Updates from CD7, LADOT, LAPD:** Cindy shared with Jon, who shared with the committee, the new LA City **Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program Update** (<https://plancheckncla.com/2021/06/22/transportation-demand-management-tdm-program-update/>) The proposed TDM Program update aims to sustainably meet transportation needs by requiring certain new development projects and substantial building expansions to incorporate TDM strategies such as supporting transit, telecommuting, walking, carshare, neighborhood shuttles, and other sustainable travel options that reduce vehicle trips.

Pat, Jon and Roger related past first-hand experiences with City traffic programs instituted here that ignored and bypassed local input causing traffic snarls during recent fire evacuations. Concerns were that plans that work elsewhere in LA may not work in Sunland-Tujunga because our hillsides restrict traffic into only east or west exits during emergencies.

CD7: Our councilmember mailed out notices this week on how to report illegal fireworks: 877-275-5273 or 311. Also, a notice on preparing one's home and yard for fire season.

LAPD: Jon shared his email exchange with Foothill Community Relations Sgt. Jesse Ojeda and both he and Roger Swartz, of the Community Police Advisory Board talked about how morale is at an all-time low for LAPD due to budget cuts, protests, etc. Roger says it's critical we show positive, continuous support for LAPD. Capt. Smith who spends 75% of his time keeping Foothill morale up in the face of detractors and haters. Leny suggested we order yard signs saying we appreciate LAPD. The committee then discussed creating signage for National Night Out and Jon suggested gathering outside Valley Traffic for a shift change with signage supporting LAPD Valley Traffic. Roger suggested doing this at the Foothill Station, instead. Karen Purdue suggested creating a program called "Tie a Blue Ribbon Around the Tree" as was done to show support for veterans. Pat suggested a motion requesting STNC issue certificates of appreciation to our LAPD SLOs and upper management. Pat will follow through on this for the next board meeting.

6. **Speed Readout Signs:** We were informed that CD7 is in the process of getting some speed readout signs for our community (four in total). Additionally, STNC board member Cindy Cleghorn asked for this item to be put on our agenda to see whether the STNC might want to fund a speed sign in our community. Pat related that these signs cost \$10K each and that this might be too much of a hit to STNC's budget of \$42K.
7. **Discussion on Yard Signs:** At a previous STAT meeting, committee member Levon Parian had suggested we reprint our yard signs and limit the wording so that it appears larger and could be more easily read. Jon and Pat both said that we would first need to see a need from the community for printing more signs as we had a hard time distributing them at our first event.

Roger Swart asked whether we could do street banners across Foothill Blvd. welcoming people (motorists) to Sunland-Tujunga and asking them to drive carefully. Roger will check into the city's requirements with CD7 and report back at a future meeting. We also discussed the problem with our last banner campaign which met opposition from CD7 and several of our banners were ultimately taken down. We discussed CD7's yard sign campaign, which Pat said was great to see as every effort helps. While our committee did not have anything to do with their campaign, anyone who wants to help them on their own is free to do so.

Ultimately, it was decided that STAT could make hand-make signs at NNO praising Valley Traffic and Foothill Station.

8. **Meeting was adjourned** at 7:40 pm.
9. **Set next meeting:** July 27, 2021.

Minutes by Jon von Gunten, co-chair/Pat Kramer, chair