

## **SAFE TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes**

Tuesday, August 26, 6:00 pm

1. **Call To Order, Roll Call** - Welcome - STAT Chairperson Pat Kramer called the STAT meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.  
Roll Call: Quorum established with committee members Pat Kramer, Jon von Gunten and George Arakel. Also present were incoming STAT committee members Dante Calvo and Cheryl Schmidt, and visitors Annette Clarke, Monique Lukens and Cindy Cleghorn.
2. **Chairpersons Message:** Pat welcomed visitors, stated the purpose of the STAT committee, and added a bit of its 11-year history. She then asked attendees to introduce themselves.
  - Annette Clarke is a stakeholder serving with the Christadelphian Christian Church. They are looking to work with our committee, possible adopting trees and building us some carts to move heavy water jugs when doing sidewalk watering.
  - Cheryl Schmidt serves on the STNC board and is a C-PAB member. She is interested in joining our committee.
  - Monique Lukens is a stakeholder in Sunland and concerned about traffic and environmental pollution, and is interested in helping with tree care.
  - Dante Calvo is a new STNC board member interested in helping the STAT committee with technology. He also has attended watering events.
  - Jon is the Region 3 rep for STNC and co-chair of our committee. He provides social media posts for the Neighborhood Watch meetings.
  - George Arakel is a longtime STAT committee member. He has been trying to reduce speeding on Elmhurst Ave. in Tujunga by getting a stop sign installed. George has worked on our tree events for many years and is recovering from back surgery. We wished him a trouble-free recovery!

Pat talked about our STAT committee's history: Slow Down signs, banner signs on streetlight poles, and tree rescue of 72 Foothill Bl. trees. She explained how agriperm restricts trees growth and ability to access water. The most recent watering event took place at Sunland Fight Club.

### **3. Public Comments:**

Pat spoke about her meeting with Congresswoman Laura Friedman last week as an individual, not representing the STAT committee or STNC. They spoke about traffic-related issues, speeding, and recent vehicular homicide cases.

Congresswoman Friedman told Pat about recent legislation the congresswoman wrote, which was passed by the legislature to allow Foothill Boulevard's speed limit to be lowered and urged Pat to take supportive action. Pat asked each

member of the committee if they thought a motion should be created at the next meeting to lower the speed limit along Foothill Boulevard. Jon and George favored such a motion. In visitors' comments, each thought such a motion couldn't hurt and might help. Pat said she would create a motion with input from Jon on the speed limits in adjacent La Crescenta/Glendale to be voted on at the next STAT meeting in September.

**4. Motion to approve minutes from July 2025 meeting.**

(Von Gunten/Arakel) moved to approve the minutes from the July 2025 STAT committee meeting.

**5. Proposal to lower speed limit on Foothill Boulevard:**

When Pat met with Congresswoman Laura Friedman, she asked about her legislation which allows lowering speed limits on main boulevards. Our role is to make traffic safer.

Dante said he would research current speed limits so we can discuss it at our next STAT meeting in September.

**6. Reports by LAPD Traffic, LADOT, CA High Speed Rail:**

Stats - recent fatalities/accidents. Pat did not get a response in time for our meeting from LAPD Traffic Officer Venegas. Cheryl said she would get traffic stats from Officer Venegas at C-PAB meetings.

Pat reviewed previous stats: A70-yo woman in Lake View Terrace struck by apparently DUI hit-and-run driver. She and her dog were killed while crossing the street. Another fatality occurred in Shadow Hills at Wheatland and Wentworth involving a wrong-way driver. Both the driver and the other driver were killed.

No new info on HSR, except that national news says Pres Trump has threatened to cut any federal funding, citing same shortcomings—cost overruns and production shortfalls—that local anti-HSR activists repeatedly cited.

**7. Tree Adoptions and Watering Events:** Friday, Aug. 22 (SFC), Sat., August 30 (CD7) & Sun., Sept. 14 (DIY).

Watering event this Saturday at DIY Home Center aiming for Tujunga trees.

Tree adoption is going well. Adopters are bragging on social media, which attracts interest. Pat's been approached by people who adopted up to four trees. To get water for trees, Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council's Beautification Committee can open a fire hydrant 7AM Wednesdays. Tree-watering team needs strollers or wagons to carry water buckets and containers.

Cheryl suggested getting business sponsorships for watering events. A community member has offered to go door to door to ask businesses to adopt trees.

Dante suggested tracking who's watering which trees. Maybe each tree gets its own QR code.

Pat pointed out inadequate smartphone ownership and knowledge, privacy and people-management concerns. She asked Dante for help with charting trees to assign volunteers at events. She also asked for help with people willing to remove agriperm, brick and cinder blocks from those trees in our community that still have it.

## **8. Additional Public Comments.**

- Monique mentioned a La Crescenta tree being butchered, apparently due to insurer's demands and wanted to know if we could adopt a tree that is endangered. Pat informed her that it not within our S-T boundaries. We cannot legally discuss the matter, as it is not on the agenda. Monique will email Pat on this issue.

Annette was volunteer in Joplin, MO, where they got volunteers to water trees. She will check with her church to see if they can help.

- Pat received a small stroller from a homeless man to move heavy water bottles. He then asked for a ride in her car to Sun Valley.
- Cindy gave updates: The Canyon Hills/Whitebird Development in La Tuna Canyon may be barriered by an endangered bumblebee. We're all abuzz.
- A Verizon contractor wants to install a 45-ft cell tower on the roof of Classy Jewelers.
- Cindy asked if we knew anyone in the condo development next door who could write letters. Monique spoke about radiation towers. One at Sunland Elementary is now taken down. Re-mentions issue of insurance companies wanting to cut down trees.

## **9. Committee Reports**

Jon reported on the S-T Neighborhood Watch, known as "Tacos with a Cop," it is held at Joselito's Tujunga at 10:30AM, third Tuesday each month. Buy your own lunch later if you wish.

**10. Next STAT Meeting:** Sept 30, 6PM, as 23rd is Rosh Hashanah.

**11. Meeting Adjourned** at 7:42PM.

Minutes by Jon von Gunten