

SAFE TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE (STAT)
SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPT. 30, 2025 6:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** STAT Chairperson Pat Kramer called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Roll Call: Quorum was achieved with STAT members: Jon von Gunten, Cochair; Pat Kramer, chairperson, George Arakel, member; and Dante Calvo, member. Also present were: Cindy Cleghorn, STNC Secretary and a call-in user
2. **Chairperson's Message: Update on last tree event/next tree watering event, approaching businesses re: tree adoptions.** Pat spoke about the last tree watering which brought together 10 people at DIY Home Center. DIY provided the water - 600 gallons and 90 trees were watered. Pat then watered 20 more along Foothill Blvd. in Tujunga.
 - Dante suggested ways to improve the task by laminating locations of trees to be handed out and reused. Jon provided other useful suggestions.
 - Pat asked whether we should look into proposing speed limits on Foothill to bring down speeding incidents.
 - Dante provided info on speeds along Foothill from Sunland to La Canada. Jon also said he would look into this. The average speed limit is 40 mph from the 210 exit in Sunland to Lowell. Should we or could we lower it to 35?
 - Various committee members suggested the biggest issue is caused by scofflaw drivers who ignore speed limits anyway. As always, we need more LAPD traffic officers to enforce. Pat discussed doing another road trip to Valley Traffic in the near future.
 - Jon says then copy that and scissor out tree assignments to hand to waterers.
 - Pat also mentioned a tree that a store owner cut down in Tujunga which came to light during the tree watering. Jon said he would look into it.
3. **Motion to approve minutes from August 2025 meeting.**
 - a. Jon moved to approve the minutes from the August STAT meeting. George seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted unanimously.
4. **CD7, LADOT, CA High Speed Rail – recent fatalities/accidents/speed cameras.** Jon said he would follow up with LAPD Officer Sal Venegas for traffic stats. We have not be receiving them lately. Jon suggested it may be the new LAPD stat system, which is bonkers.
5. **Discussion and motion on City Council Motion to reduce traffic lanes to allow for an emergency vehicle/bike lane. CF 25-0930:**
Pat moved to oppose Council File 25-0930, seconded by Jon regarding options and amendment to require bike lanes to be widened to provide sufficient width for emergency vehicle access. The initial motion was made by CM Heather Hutt and seconded by CM Tim McOske on August 13, 2025. The amendment was made by CM Hugo Soto-Martinez and CM Nithya Raman and seconded by CM Katy Yaroslavsky.

The motion was unanimously approved and sent to the STNC board stating, "That our community does not feel it would be practical or safe for our community of Sunland-Tujunga to take this action because we already have limited space for traffic of two lanes in either direction due to parking lanes and seldom-used bike lanes. This motion seems to mean we'd lose at least one lane in each direction to accommodate emergency vehicles.

We would not want to further restrict heavy traffic along our High-Speed Roadway of Foothill Boulevard and Sunland Boulevard to make room for emergency vehicles in the existing bikes lane.

We also believe that having emergency vehicles using the bike lanes would potentially cause injuries to bike riders trapped between fast moving traffic and the curb if emergency vehicles were also in their lane. Council directs DOT to report on impacts, resulting safety issues.”

- Jon said the definitions in the CF are too vague and unexplained—what are "non-car?" "sufficient width?"
 - George agreed.
 - Pat said Foothill bike lanes are so seldom used by bikes that there's no real benefit to community. Also, since Foothill traffic echoes freeway traffic, losing a lane would force fast traffic into too-narrow east-west neighborhood streets.
 - Cindy said she sees more cyclists now in bike lanes. She also talked about pop up vendors who park their gear on our sidewalks causing vehicle parking in bike lanes.
 - Dante felt Foothill is too dangerous for bikes. He agreed that we don't have the street width to lose a lane.
 - George pointed out that having emergency vehicle share the bike lane would be putting cyclists in danger. Not all cyclists can pop their bikes onto the curb or the verge when firetruck appears due to age, kids on the bike, etc.
6. **Trees Being Cut Down by Business Owners.** Pat said she would provide addresses of illegally cut trees. There are several businesses that have taken matters into their own hands.
7. **Next Tree Watering:** Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025 at Joselito's, starting at Commerce and going west. Additionally, there will be students coming in from Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino to water trees on October 24, 10 a.m. to noon. A staffer will bring his pickup truck to haul water jugs. Location tentatively Ralph's in Sunland.
8. Jon suggested tilling soil on hard packed trees. Pat said there will not be time to do that so mulch will be used to top off soil and create a berm to pour water into.
9. **Committee Reports:**
- Need help with reaching out to business owners about watering trees in front of their businesses. Pat was promised help by a stakeholder in updating the maps of trees' locations and complete status.
 - A stakeholder has offered potential help with small carts to move heavy water bottles. Need to follow up with her.
 - Pat needs a new location to store water bottles. Jon said he would contact Public Storage Co.
 - Jon said LAPD N/W meeting was particularly informative as Van Nuys fraud and scam Dets. Calicchia and Adrian elaborated on the many RE and money scams being used.
10. **Public Comments.** None.
11. **Next Meeting: October 28, 2025**
12. **Meeting Adjourned at 7:49 p.m.**

Minutes by Jon von Gunten

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Cindy Cleghorn, Secretaria, al (818) 951-7411 o por correo electrónico secretary@stnc.org para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE OCTOBER 6, 2023 ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 411 (PORTANTINO) AND LA CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023, THE SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY.

Every person wishing to address the Board must dial (669) 444-9171, and enter **84529337865** and then press # to join the meeting. When prompted by the presiding officer, to provide public input at the Neighborhood Council meeting the public will be requested to dial *9 or use the Raise Hand option, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered.

Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to **TWO** minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

SB 411 Updates:

In the event of a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the eligible legislative body's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the eligible legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

- a. The eligible legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comments in real time.
- b. Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the eligible legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.
- c. (i) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.
- d. An eligible legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.
- e. An eligible legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

This meeting is being held by the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council using teleconferencing pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.8(a)(2)(B).

Posted: 9/25/25— Remove after: 10/1/25

The Neighborhood Council system enables meaningful civic participation for all Angelenos and serves as a voice for improving government responsiveness to local communities and their needs. We are an advisory body to the City of Los Angeles, comprised of stakeholder volunteers who are devoted to the mission of improving our communities. Unless otherwise specified, all items on the meeting agenda are for Discussion and Possible Action and may be taken out of order at the discretion of the President. This is an online virtual meeting, please understand that there may be some connection delays from time to time.

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RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS - For information on the STNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council Bylaws. The Bylaws are available on our website www.stnc.org