

**STAT BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

1. **Call to Order at 6:00 pm** by Pat Kramer, chair. Committee members in attendance: Jon von Gunten, cochair and George Arakel. Cheryl Schmidt joined at 6:13 p.m. Quorum reached with four committee members.

Also in attendance: Cindy Cleghorn, Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council Secretary.

2. **Chairperson's Message**

We will participate in an Earth Day event on April 18th in the CD7 back parking lot. Pat is coordinating with Melissa Sagastume of STNC. We'll provide the handouts on tree adoption and watering and education on composting with a Master Gardener. Promote and recruit for STAT. Maybe a demo on mulching.

CD7 has given permission for tree waterings on these Saturdays in 2026:

- 21 February
- 25 April
- 18 July
- 19 September.

We may set up additional ones at Ralph's, Joselito's, and possibly other businesses.

Melissa Sagastume is coordinating STNC's possible new storage site. We will await news on that before moving water containers.

3. **Approval of the Nov. 2025 Minutes of the STAT meeting.**

Pat moved to accept the November 2025 minutes. Jon seconded. It was passed unanimously.

4. **Reports from LAPD Traffic Officer Sal Venegas Stats – No report.**

CD7 Ricardo Flores' Updates:

- During a 45-minute talk today with Ricardo, Pat discussed Ricardo's suggestions on ways to reduce speed on Foothill, and said LADOT was looking at every major intersection from Sunland's 210 exit to Lowell.
- Ricardo's ideas included possible "restricted right turns"—meaning "to forbid unless there's a green-arrow light"—onto Foothill at Apperson, Plainview, and possibly Tujunga Canyon Blvd.) (our committee strongly feels this intersection is not a good idea for a traffic restriction).
- Also no left turns from Haines Cyn. onto Foothill and no left turns from Tujunga Canyon Place onto Foothill.
- New Trees are coming on Fenwick by Ralph's, because STNC Beautification Committee has promised to water them for three years.
- LA City Council File CF 2514-78 would mandate removing all residential foliage within 5 feet of homes, per a CA state mandate. This passed City Council on 14 January.
- STNC submitted a CIS to City Council with amendments to ameliorate these harsh measures—as did seven other NCs—but it's unclear from City site if any amendments were included.
- A left turn light is at last in the works for Oro Vista at Foothill. The contractor is now scheduling installation in the coming months.
- STNC's 11 February in-person meeting will be at the Elks Club on Commerce. Cindy suggested and Pat agreed that it would be a good opportunity to discuss traffic proposals with LADOT.

- Jon vG asked whether accidents really did occur at these intersections DUE TO these infractions, or are they just hopeful changes.
- George Arakel pointed out the danger of people entering Foothill Bl. from the Smart and Final driveway and separately on Marnice Street at Foothill. With this in mind, we believe that if access to Foothill is restricted, people will continue to cut through businesses' parking lots, where two serious accidents already occurred in the last few months.
- For last tree watering event, Dante made Pat a list with individual cards for each tree. We need to periodically update tree lists. Pat asked for someone to drive while she takes notes along Foothill.

5. Outreach to businesses on tree adoptions.

Possibly DIY where we have already held two events for tree watering, although Pat pointed out that they are on the far east end of Tujunga.

6. Committee Reports:

- C-PAB report – Cheryl will try to get notes for the February C-PAB meeting from Norma
- LAPD Traffic reports: Jon will follow up on this.
- Initiating Promos for our committee – Dante will continue.
- Outreach to Armenian community - George will pick up Tree Adoption Cards from Pat.
- Meeting with LAPD Traffic Captain – Pat will initiate.

7. Public Comments:

- Cindy Cleghorn: STNC will have an in-person meeting on 11 Feb at Elks.
- Jon noted that LADOT has not been very open to public comments at recent meetings. Cindy said some of their reps are more amenable than others. She will send Pat her contact at LADOT.
- Cindy suggested Dillon, a new STNC board member, might want to help with promos.
- George wants to pursue more pedestrian crossings on Foothill Bl. Needs to be at an existing signal. Left turn at Tujunga Canyon Blvd. and Foothill Bl.
- Jon reported on the 20 January Neighborhood Watch meeting and Officer Massie's presentation on TVR, our local gang. Mostly smalltime crimes, not violent to residents. BUT they recruit 11- and 12- yo's in Howard Finn Park. His Neighborhood Watch meeting. report is coming out within 24 hours.

DO-LIST:

- PAT: Set up meeting with Capt of Valley Traffic.
- JON: Get stats from Venegas for December and January.
- JON: Approach Harbor Freight and PetSmart to sponsor—watering spigot, coffee, promo—tree waterings. Two hours, some Saturday morning: TBD.

8. Meeting Adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Minutes by Jon von Gunten