

Draft minutes for CPNC Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee on December 4, 2025

The Canoga Park Neighborhood Council Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting focused on introducing a new Safe Passage Initiative pilot program aimed at creating safe routes for students traveling to and from school by partnering with local businesses. The committee discussed agenda items and minutes from previous meetings, including concerns about clarity and accuracy of agenda items, while also exploring ways to improve future documentation. The group concluded by discussing various proposals for traffic safety initiatives, including allocating funds for Vision Zero efforts and studying street conversions, with plans to present these ideas at upcoming meetings.

Next steps

- Patrick Hernandez: Send map and information on main student routes to/from Canoga Park High School to committee members.
- Mary Paterson: Since our regular meeting would fall on January 1st, check community center room availability for January 5th meeting; if unavailable, schedule a special Zoom meeting for the committee.
- Committee members: Send suggestions for specific items from the project list that they want included on the January 5th agenda to Mary Paterson, with proper wording for discussion and possible action.
- Tushar Patel: Prepare and send proposed language/verbiage for the \$2,000 traffic safety/fatality reduction allocation item to Mary Paterson for inclusion on the next agenda.
- Mary Paterson: Add "Discussion and possible action to approve the allocation of \$2,000 for the purpose of reducing traffic fatalities and injuries on streets within the Canoga Park jurisdiction boundaries" to the January 5th agenda.
- Mary Paterson: Add "Discussion and possible action to support the Safe Passage Network in partnership with the Mayor's office" to the January 5th agenda.
- Mary Paterson: Add "Invite Sean McCarthy to present on graffiti removal/beautification projects at the next meeting" to the January 5th agenda.
- Tushar Patel: Develop a more detailed presentation/proposal for the traffic safety/fatality reduction project, including specific goals and potential collaboration with city departments, to present at a future committee and/or budget meeting.
- Mary Paterson: Ensure committee meeting agendas include committee member names and that minutes are properly approved going forward.
- Mary Paterson/Committee: Investigate and, if possible, arrange for hybrid (in-person/Zoom) meeting capability, including appropriate equipment, for future meetings.
- Corinne (or designated member): Visit Winnetka Neighborhood Council (or similar) to observe/test hybrid meeting setup and report back on needed equipment.

Summary

Safe Passage Initiative Launch Meeting

The Canoga Park Neighborhood Council Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting focused on introducing a new Safe Passage Initiative pilot program, which aims to create safe routes for students traveling to and from school by partnering with local businesses. Patrick Hernandez from Alliance for Community Empowerment East explained that 10 out of 25 local businesses have already committed to the program, which includes displaying a decal indicating their participation and providing a safe space for children. The committee discussed the need to further engage businesses, particularly along specific routes from Canoga Park High School, and noted that the program could potentially expand across LAUSD if successful.

Safe Passage Program Expansion

The meeting focused on a Safe Passage program aimed at enhancing community safety, particularly for youth. Patrick suggested creating an app to help users identify safe businesses and locations, which was well-received by the group. The program, funded by the mayor, is currently a pilot at Canoga Park High School and aims to expand by engaging more local businesses. Once the committee discusses it further they may ask Neighborhood Council full board if they will consider supporting the program at one of the upcoming meetings – probably early 2026.

Improving Meeting Agenda Clarity

The meeting focused on discussing the agenda and minutes of a previous meeting. Corinne raised concerns about the clarity and accuracy of the agenda items, particularly regarding previously compiled lists and the inclusion of Safe Passage Zones. Mary explained that the items were compiled from various sources, including guest presentations and brainstorming sessions. They agreed to work to improve the clarity of future agendas and minutes to better reflect past discussions and actions. The group also discussed the need to include committee members' names on the agenda and to approve the minutes.

Safe Passage Program Pilot Discussion

The group discussed the Safe Passage program, a pilot initiative focusing on Canoga Park High School with routes mapped out in Topanga and Van Nuys. The program would allow businesses to participate by displaying stickers and connecting with the mayor's office through monthly Zoom calls, offering support for students feeling unsafe. While some members expressed interest in taking immediate action, others emphasized the importance of following proper agenda procedures, leading to a decision to discuss and potentially vote on the program at the next meeting.

Safe Passage Zones Action Plan

The group discussed how to proceed with planning actions for safe passage zones. Speaker 5 advocated for a structured approach, suggesting they scrap current brainstorming efforts and focus on concrete actions at the next meeting. The committee agreed to add "discussion and possible action to support safe passage zones" to the agenda, with the understanding that specific actions would be decided during the discussion. They acknowledged the need to balance comprehensive planning with manageable implementation, particularly for Mary who would be leading the initiative.

Safe Passage Network Initiatives Review

The committee discussed agenda items for their next meeting, focusing on Safe Passage Network initiatives and graffiti removal projects. They agreed to invite Sean McCarthy to present on his LA River beautification efforts. The group decided to meet on January 5th at 6:00 PM, with a Zoom option if the community center is unavailable. Lisa proposed a traffic safety initiative requiring \$200,000 from each of the 99 city councils, which would be managed by the department. The committee agreed to review the list of potential projects and discuss which ones to pursue at the next meeting.

Vision Zero Budget Allocation

The group discussed a proposal to allocate \$2,000 from the CDNC budget for a Vision Zero initiative aimed at reducing fatal injuries. Speaker 7 explained that the funds would be used to create a comprehensive plan with input from various stakeholders, including the 99 neighborhood councils. The group debated the feasibility of this approach, with Speaker 5 expressing concerns about clarity and contingency planning. Speaker 2 raised questions about the potential challenges of coordinating efforts across different neighborhoods and the need to clearly define the project's goals and end results.

Traffic Safety Budget Initiative

The group discussed a project to reduce traffic fatalities, with a focus on allocating \$2,000 from the city's budget for initiatives in specific neighborhoods. They agreed to prepare a presentation for the Budget and Finance Committee to clarify the project's details and secure funding. The participants emphasized the need for more specific information on how the funds would be used and which organizations would be involved. They also considered involving Empower LA to help with technical corrections to the budget language.

Public Safety Streets Proposal Review

The group discussed a proposal to allocate \$2,000 per neighborhood council for public safety initiatives aimed at reducing traffic fatalities and injuries. Mr. Patel presented an idea to convert two-way streets to one-way streets in the Valley, which would require further study and feasibility assessment. The committee agreed that more details and data were needed to support the proposal, and suggested presenting a preliminary version at the next committee meeting for further discussion and refinement.

Traffic Safety Studies Proposal

The group discussed a proposal to allocate \$2,000 for traffic safety studies in Canoga Park, with plans to present this to the Public Safety Committee on January 5th. They agreed to include language about reducing fatalities and injuries in the streets within Canoga Park jurisdiction. The group also discussed the need for better technology to enable hybrid meetings, with suggestions to visit other neighborhood councils to see their setups. They decided to add this item to the January 5th meeting agenda, along with other topics like graffiti blitz and safe passage.