



North Park Planning Committee

Public Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee

Draft Minutes for 12 August 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

In Person Location North Park Christian Fellowship 2901 N Park Way

Teleconference <https://bit.ly/publicfacilitiesreg>

I. Consent Agenda Items (6:00-6:05 p.m.)

Attendance:

Board members: Doug Schueler, Holden Leslie-Bole, Jason Vance, Lynn Elliott, Bob LaRose, Roger McClish

Members of community, in person: Matthew Thompson, 1 other

Members of community, on Zoom: 1

- a. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Attendance Report
Call to order: 6:01
- b. Modifications & Adoption of the 12 August 2025 Agenda
Item III-c should be "Informational Item 3" rather than "2".
Agenda approved as amended (Elliott/LaRose/5-0-0).
- c. Adoption of the 8 July 2025 Meeting Minutes
July minutes approved (McClish/LaRose/6-0-0).

II. Non-Agenda Public Comment (6:05-6:15 p.m.)

Limited to Items not on Agenda; non-debatable. Two-minute maximum, Chair can award more time.

Community member brought up request for traffic calming on Arnold between Upas and Landis. Police had posted speed signs but cars were still going too fast. Recently a car hit a child. Wanted to raise awareness that this is a very dangerous stretch of road. GetItDone has been submitted.

Holden: Has found San Diego traffic calming manual. Would be worth looking at for future traffic calming considerations. Could be brought up as a future agenda item.

III. Action and Informational Items (6:15-6:55 p.m.)

- a. **Informational Item 1 (6:15-6:30):** North Park Water Tower enhancement suggestion:
"With a fresh coat of paint and a thoughtfully designed mural or artistic theme, we could transform it into a visual symbol of community pride. Similar projects across the country have boosted local identity, attracted tourism, and created positive press."

Person who proposed this was not present at the meeting. Water tower is already a symbol of the community, but was last painted a while ago and is a bit weathered, has some graffiti. Water tower is not currently used, is owned by the city. Supports may have been reinforced several years ago. Could potentially be added to CIP list as part of the surrounding area. GetItDone will be filed for graffiti. Will be followed up on in the future.

- b. **Informational Item 2 (6:30-6:45):** Utah Street Bikeway Improvements: Review a recommendation to the City to improve the Utah Street bikeway by reducing the vehicle lane to the minimum width per National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) guidelines to discourage speeding, and using the recovered space to install a painted buffer between the bike lane and parked vehicles to reduce the risk of vehicle door collisions with bikes.

Images of current situation shown to meeting. There is a buffer between the bike lane and the lanes of car traffic to allow more room for bikes to avoid open doors of parked cars. Also allows cyclists to avoid trash cans in the street. Buffer is inconsistent throughout Utah St. Utah St. is the main north-south bike corridor in North Park, connecting Adams to Upas and the Pershing St. Bikeway. The car lanes on Utah are currently as wide as higher-speed streets, should be narrowed to lower speed, which improves safety. Under AB 43, routes to schools can have speed limit lowered.

Discussion about usefulness of Utah St. vs 30th St. bikeways. Opinion in room was that Utah is safer than 30th, should be more utilized. Lowering speed and increasing buffer would support this advantage. Question about where buffer should be—on the traffic lane side or the parked car side. Buffer on the parked car side may be preferable, but having on either side does help.

Issue brought up of potential unintended consequences, the pushing of traffic to other streets. Concern that increasing of buffer zone may eliminate parking spots. Issue of narrower lanes increasing likelihood of head-on car collisions. Issue of bike lane separation potentially being increased later on in response to accidents.

Discussion on whether bike lanes being on other side of parked cars, as they are on 30th, is preferable—tradeoffs between physical separation and visibility.

Speed bumps may not be available to do on this street because it is a route for ambulances going to the Naval Hospital. Emergency vehicle cutouts, like on other streets in the neighborhood, may be a way around this.

Bike lane also doesn't exist on Utah between University and Lincoln. Question on why this is the case—seems that the city is trying to keep turn lanes, parking on the street. Discussion on whether this section of street is narrower than rest.

Motion to recommend asking the city to use AB 43 to lower the speed limits (from 25 to 20 mph), as well as narrow the travel lanes to the NACTO recommended width for that speed, in order to increase the bike lane buffer, with

a focus on protecting cyclists from the door zone, on Utah St. from Adams Ave. to Upas St. passes (Vance/Elliott/6-0-0).

- c. **Informational Item 3 (6:45-6:55):** Community input on San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) service improvement: MTS is looking for community input on improvements to existing transit services or new services that community members would like to see put in place. A survey for inputs can be found at [OnTrack Community Forum | MTS OnTrack | Participate MTS](#). Time allowing, suggested MTS improvements can be discussed during this time period.

Forum outlined and highlighted, recommended that community members make suggestions. Committee could also potentially take up MTS recommendations in the future, have discussions with MTS representatives.

IV. Unfinished, New Business & Future Agenda Items: (6:55-6:59 p.m.)

Bob: New paid parking on Adams Avenue near Park Boulevard. Question on how it was approved. Can be followed up on in the future.

V. Adjournment (7:00 p.m.)

Motion to adjourn passes (Elliott/LaRose) at 6:02.

Future PFT Subcommittee Meeting Date: 9 September 2025 at 6 p.m.

Contact Information: Doug Schueler (Public Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee Chair) publicfacilities@northparkplanning.org

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