

AlongNow Approved Public Meeting Location System

Technical Product Requirement for In-Person Bookings

For the initial AlongNow pilot, every in-person booking should require both the client and the Professional Companion (PC) to meet at an AlongNow-approved public location. The booking should not be confirmed until a valid meeting location has been selected.

1. Core Product Rule

If “In-Person” is selected, the booking cannot be confirmed until both parties select an AlongNow-approved public meeting location.

This keeps the initial safety model simple, clear, and enforceable. Private homes, hotel rooms, parked cars, isolated parks or trails, and other private or low-visibility spaces should not be allowed during AlongNow service hours.

2. Recommended Booking Flow

1. Client selects In-Person service.
2. System identifies the desired meeting area, ZIP code, or approximate location.
3. System searches nearby public venues.
4. Safety rules filter out unsuitable locations.
5. AlongNow recommends 3-5 approved meeting places.
6. Client selects a preferred location.
7. PC accepts the booking and location.
8. Booking is confirmed only after the approved location is locked.
9. Both parties check in at the selected location when the service begins.
10. Both parties check out when the service ends.

3. Approved Venue Categories

- Starbucks and other staffed coffee shops
- Public libraries
- Community centers
- Senior centers
- Major shopping malls
- Hospital or clinic public areas
- Coworking common areas
- Other staffed, visible public venues approved by AlongNow

4. Safety Rule Engine

Each candidate location should be evaluated using simple safety criteria:

- Public venue
- Staffed during the meeting
- Open for the full booking period
- Clear street address
- Regular public foot traffic
- Indoor or well-lit public setting
- Not a private residence
- Not a hotel room
- Not a parked car
- Not an isolated park, trail, or low-visibility area

The system may later assign a Location Safety Score. Locations that are public, staffed, open, busy, and easy to identify should receive the highest ranking.

5. MVP Implementation

For the first 30-50 cases, AlongNow does not need a nationwide location database. The simplest MVP is to create a small approved-location database for Santa Clara County and manually review locations.

A practical first version could include 50-100 approved locations.

6. Suggested Database Table

- location_name
- address
- category
- latitude
- longitude
- business_hours
- staffed
- indoor_or_outdoor
- safety_status
- approved_by
- notes

7. Future Automated Version

After the pilot, the location-selection system can be automated by integrating a place-search service such as Google Maps Places API, Apple MapKit, Mapbox Search, or another location provider.

The platform can search nearby venues in real time, check venue type and operating hours, apply AlongNow safety rules, and rank the best options for the booking.

8. Recommended Technical Logic

In-Person Request -> Meeting Area -> Nearby Public Places -> Safety Filter -> Approved Location List -> Client Selects -> PC Accepts -> Booking Confirmed -> Check-In -> Service -> Check-Out

9. Why This Matters

The goal is not to claim that any public location is completely risk-free. The goal is to reduce avoidable risk by preventing private-space meetings during AlongNow service hours and by making the meeting location part of the official booking record.

This approach also creates a consistent safety standard that can be explained to clients, PCs, technical supporters, insurers, and future investors.

Simple Rule. Clear Location. Safer Pilot.

AlongNow - AI Connects. Humans Care.