



Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting Minutes

5:30 PM, Monday, May 20, 2019

SITE VISIT: Labath Avenue and Carlson Avenue, north of Rohnert Park Expressway

Members Present: Katie Musick Creighton Bell Tim Hensel
Shirley Johnson Gary Kenworthy

Non-Voting Participants: Eydie Tacata, Management Analyst, City of Rohnert Park; Vanessa Garrett, Deputy City Engineer, City of Rohnert Park; Leo Tacata, resident, Rohnert Park

1. Call to Order

Chair Katie Musick called the meeting to order at approximately 5:32 PM.

2. Introductions

Chair Musick commenced self-introductions.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment about items not on the meeting agenda.

4. Site Visit Observations

The Committee members and other site visit attendees met on the northwest corner of Martin Avenue and Labath Avenue. Staff member Eydie Tacata explained that the BPAC had a list of site visits that they wanted to conduct, and that the west side of Rohnert Park was on the list. Additionally, the west side of Rohnert Park is among several areas of town being analyze for alternatives as part of the General Plan update.

The Committee members met on the northwest sidewalk of Labath Avenue and Martin Avenue. The Committee members, staff, and a member of the public made the following observations and discussed various issues, including:

- **Improvements in the vicinity of Labath Avenue and the Martin Avenue extension:** Committee Member Shirley Johnson asked what improvements there would be in the vicinity of the Labath and Martin intersection, with the new development. Deputy City Engineer Vanessa Garrett said she would check on whether there would be a stoplight; Martin Avenue is essentially a private driveway. Chair Musick said that she expected that traffic to and from Costco would go through that street to avoid the left turn at the Redwood Drive intersection.
- **Bike/ped path along Hinebaugh Creek:** Committee Member Johnson if there are plans to further develop the path along Hinebaugh Creek. Deputy City Engineer Garrett said that the developer of the Fairfield Inns & Suites would be asked to rehabilitate the existing path on the north side of Hinebaugh Creek along their property. The Hinebaugh Creek path has been identified for rehabilitation due to its condition. however other paths in Rohnert Park rank worse in condition and those would likely be fixed before this segment. Committee Member Johnson asked why the entrance to the path was blocked off. Deputy City Engineer Garrett said that the Sonoma County Water Agency owns the path and likely blocked it off for safety concerns. There have been discussions about the City of Rohnert Park taking over the maintenance of this path segment.

- **Bicycle and pedestrian facilities on Labath Avenue:** The group noted the sharrows on Labath Avenue to indicate that bicycles would share the lanes with automobiles.

There was discussion about the mid-block crosswalk close to North Bay Industries, which occupies buildings on both sides of Labath Avenue. Committee Member Johnson explained that North Bay Industries students/clients often cross Labath Avenue to access the bus stop and/or the other facility, suggesting that this may be the reason the marked crosswalk exists. There was general discussion about whether there would be need for an enhanced crosswalk here.

The Committee noted the 2nd midblock crosswalk at the north end of Labath Avenue, south of Park Court. There did not appear to be specific attractors at the location to warrant a crosswalk here, although there was speculation among the group that there may have been a businesses such as a deli or eatery that might have created pedestrian traffic here.

Chair Musick suggested that proposed changes to existing crosswalks could wait until after the rest of the planned housing for the west side in this area gets built.

The group discussed the fast speed at which vehicles appeared to travel on Labath Avenue. Committee Member Bell noted the 35 MPH posted speed, and also that despite the parked cars on both sides of the street which might visually narrow the street and slow down traffic, but which did not appear to do so here. The group also noted that “No Parking” signs seem to have been removed.

- **General observations about connectivity in vicinity of Carlson Avenue and Dowdell Avenue:** There was discussion about the new residential developments in the area as well as the new park being built on the corner of Carlson Avenue and Dowdell Avenue. Ms. Tacata said that the City had heard a few concerns about the safety of the crossing on Martin Avenue, just south of the intersection of Carlson Avenue and Dowdell Avenue, with some citizens citing fast vehicular speeds.

There was discussion about north/south connectors in general on the west side of Rohnert Park, with both Chair Musick and Committee Member Bell noting that Dowdell Avenue provides a good alternative to the bicycle facilities on Redwood Drive. Chair Musick noted the need for communication about how to get around on the west side and how to connect to the network on the east side. For example, if you are on Redwood Drive, what is the best way to get to Labath Avenue? For the residential that already exists on the west side, maybe the best route is on Labath Avenue. Committee Member Bell also noted that if there was a crossing along Copeland Creek over or under Highway 101, this could provide another connection between Labath Avenue south of Rohnert Park Expressway to the east side of town.

There was also general discussion about the need for cross-town bicycle and pedestrian connections across Highway 101, including a potential State Farm Drive overcrossing, which had appeared in the current General Plan.

5. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:30 PM.



Eydie Tacata, Recording Secretary
Rohnert Park Bicycle and
Pedestrian Advisory Committee



Katie Musick, Chair
Rohnert Park Bicycle and
Pedestrian Advisory Committee