



**FINAL**

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)  
Meeting Minutes**

5:30 PM, Monday, June 27, 2022  
City of Rohnert Park Annex Building,  
6250 State Farm Drive, Rohnert Park, California

**Members Present:** Tim Hensel X Kimberly Finale X  
Creighton Bell X Gary Gutierrez X Jan Ogren O

**Non-Voting Participants:** Eydie Tacata (Sr. Public Works Analyst, City of Rohnert Park), Eris Weaver (Executive Director, Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition)

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Tim Hensel called the meeting to order at approximately 5:38 PM.

**2. Introductions**

Chair Hensel commenced self-introductions.

**3. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of March 28, 2022**

BPAC Member Creighton Bell moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 28, 2022; the motion was seconded by BPAC Member Gary Gutierrez and approved by a vote count of 4 ayes (Bell, Gutierrez, Hensel, Finale), 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absence (Ogren).

**4. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of April 25, 2022**

Mr. Gutierrez moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 25, 2022; the motion was seconded by BPAC Member Kim Finale. Ms. Finale noted that during this field visit/meeting, she had to leave before it concluded; it was noted that BPAC Member Jan Ogren also left at the same time. Eydie Tacata, BPAC recording secretary, said that she would correct the minutes to reflect this. The motion was amended by Mr. Gutierrez to include the correction. The motion to approve the minutes passed by a vote count of 3 ayes (Gutierrez, Hensel, Finale), 0 nays, 1 abstention (Bell), 1 absence (Ogren).

**5. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2022**

BPAC Member Creighton Bell moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 9, 2022; the motion was seconded by Chair Hensel. Ms. Finale asked for a correction in the minutes, which stated that she brought up the issue of cars being stopped in the middle of the street in front of Technology Middle School to drop students off. She said that this could not be so, as she does not walk by the school at that time in the morning. Ms. Tacata said that she would correct the minutes to reflect this. The motion was amended by Mr. Bell to include the correction. The motion to approve the minutes passed with a vote count of 4 ayes (Bell, Gutierrez, Hensel, Finale), 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absence (Ogren).

**6. Project Updates (Information)**

- **Rohnert Park Expressway/Commerce Pedestrian Safety Improvements:** Ms. Tacata provided an update on the project, that the City was waiting on Caltrans's notification that Federal funding for construction is approved. The project cannot be put out to bid before this notification. If notified soon, the project can be in construction by Fall 2022.

- **Southwest Boulevard Complete Streets Project:** Ms. Tacata relayed that project concept recommendation is on the June 28, 2022 Rohnert Park City Council meeting agenda. She showed the BPAC the Proposed Design Recommendation from the staff report (see Attachment A to 6/27/22 Minutes). Ms. Finale said she was disappointed that the staff recommendation did not include extending new sidewalk past the roundabout to the east side of Commerce Boulevard. There was discussion about the absence of sidewalk on most of the east side of Commerce Boulevard between the roundabout and just south of Arlen Drive. There was also brief discussion about where pedestrian crossings would be located in the vicinity of the roundabout, if there was a sidewalk. Mr. Gutierrez wondered why the staff report called out specifically that installing a new sidewalk between No Name Drive and the roundabout was not recommended.

There was also discussion about the poor condition of the bike path on the west side of Commerce Boulevard, the lack of lighting, and the high usage of the path. Mr. Gutierrez said that he would like an agenda item on the Commerce Boulevard Bike Path.

- **Central Rohnert Park PDA Complete Streets Project:** Ms. Tacata reported that this project was not one of projects recommended by the Sonoma County Transportation Authority to be moved forward for Federal funding through One Bay Area Grant Cycle 3. Other funding will be sought for the design and construction phases of the project at a later time.
- **Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP):** Ms. Tacata reported that the LRSP was still on the City website, available for comment, even through June 26<sup>th</sup> was supposed to be the last day. Eris Weaver (Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition) asked if the LRSP was going to be adopted by the City Council at a July meeting; Ms. Tacata said that this was her understanding.
- **Other City street or path projects in construction over the summer:** Ms. Tacata reported on the East Cotati Avenue Paving project, which includes installation of a through-bike lane on westbound East Cotati Avenue, east of the Snyder Lane intersection, which was long-requested by the BPAC. She reported that the project is scheduled to go through September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## 7. Public Comments

Ms. Weaver announced the Petaluma Ciclovía event on July 17<sup>th</sup>. A segment of Petaluma Boulevard would be closed to car traffic north of Walnut Park to where Lynch Creek Trail intersects. The route follows Lynch Creek crosses under the freeway to Luchessi Park. Fun activities and performances will occur all along the way. The event is a chance to walk, bike and roll on route without cars. She explained that the concept of Ciclovía originated in Bogota, Colombia, where the event now involves 50 miles of streets. She hopes that the Petaluma Ciclovía will spark a desire to hold similar events throughout Sonoma County.

Ms. Weaver relayed her recent pedestrian experience travelling from the east side of Rohnert Park to the west side, using the Copeland Creek culvert. She said it was unpleasant, as is pedestrian travel generally on Rohnert Park's west side. There was discussion about other pedestrian routes to cross Highway 101, including the Highway 116 underpass, School Street tunnel, and other informal trails.

Ms. Weaver asked about an update on the Trail to Crane Creek Regional Park. Ms. Tacata replied that the City has 100% plans, but until there are several funding and other agreements completed among all of the parties including the Sonoma County Regional Parks and Open Space District.

## 8. New Matters for Future Consideration

Ms. Finale said that she would like to have an agenda item to discuss sidewalk obstructions on Burton Avenue, including utility poles and overgrown vegetation. Ms. Finale said that many

sidewalks in town are already narrow and when a utility pole or overgrown vegetation blocks the sidewalk, it becomes unusable for pedestrians, and especially people in wheelchairs. There was discussion about having a representative from the disabled community at the meeting. There was also discussion about how widening the sidewalk would mitigate some of these problems. Mr. Bell asked what would it take to widen the sidewalk. Ms. Tacata noted these and said she would like to see if one of the City's engineers could come and speak to these topics at a future meeting.

Mr. Hensel suggested a future site walk of the Burton Avenue area in relation to the sidewalk obstruction, ramp, and access issues. Ms. Tacata said that a walking loop could start from the middle school/ Cotati-Rohnert Park School District office on Burton Avenue, proceed to Bonnie Avenue where Technology High School is, to the Boys and Girls Club and then back to Burton Avenue.

Mr. Bell asked whether project requests are considered for inserting into or coordinating with construction projects already in the pipeline; for example, could fixing the Commerce Boulevard Bike Path be considered when there is a paving or concrete project? Ms. Tacata noted this topic for future agenda consideration.

Ms. Tacata noted that staff owed the BPAC some information about bike path ratings, which was requested at a previous meeting.

## **9. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:02 PM.



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



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Tim Hensel, Chair  
Rohnert Park Bicycle and  
Pedestrian Advisory Committee