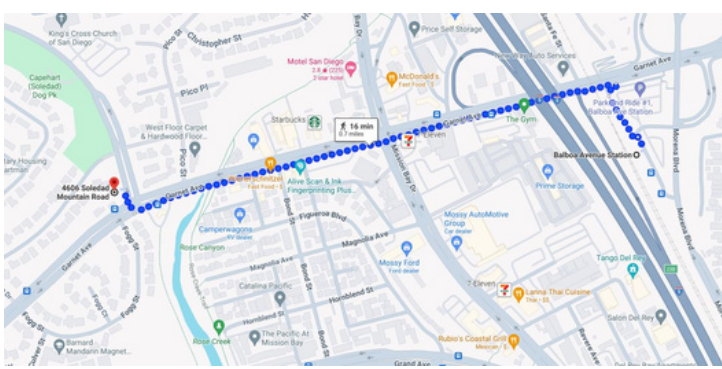


SAN DIEGO COUNTY WALK AUDIT

AUDITOR NAME & ORGANIZATION	AUDIT LOCATION	AUDIT DATE
Carlos Roja, UCSD ACTRI	Pacific Beach, San Diego	02/22/2024

MAP OF AREA AUDITED



Garnet Ave between Soledad Mountain Rd and Balboa Ave (Balboa Ave Transit Center), Pacific Beach, San Diego, 92109

Garnet Ave serves as a vital route to multiple neighborhoods in San Diego including Pacific Beach, La Jolla, and Clairemont. It is also a popular route to and from school, including Mission Bay High School, La Jolla High School, and Toler Elementary School

WALKING CHALLENGES: WHAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT OR UNSAFE TO WALK?

- Walking westbound along Balboa Ave from the Balboa Ave Transit Center, cars are seen driving about 50 MPH past pedestrians without a sidewalk-street buffer
- At the pedestrian crossing for the I-5 eastbound Balboa Ave exit, cars do not always respect the “No Right on Red” sign
- The I-5 underpass sidewalk that connects Balboa Ave to Garnet Ave is filled with debris and very narrow sidewalks, especially for pedestrians walking in opposite directions. There is also poor overhead lighting and the underpass gets very dark at night.
- Entrances and exits to businesses including “The Gym” along Garnet Ave become a safety hazard for pedestrians as cars attempt to quickly merge onto Garnet Ave without looking out for pedestrians.
- Crossing the busy intersection of Garnet Ave and Mission Bay Dr is dangerous for pedestrians who have to watch out for incoming traffic encroaching the sidewalk turning right from Mission Bay Dr toward Balboa Ave and those turning right from Garnet Ave onto Mission Bay Dr
- The bridge over Rosa Creek contains a narrow sidewalk that poses another safety hazard



Balboa Ave Transit Center splits the busy streets of Balboa Ave and Garnet Ave



Cars exiting I-5 E Balboa Ave exit do not respect crosswalks



I-5 underpass on Garnet Ave contains narrow sidewalks, debris, and poor lighting

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WALK AUDIT

NOTES AND PHOTOS

- The segment of Garnet Ave that intersects with Interstate-5 and Mission Bay Dr serves as a crucial link in San Diego's transit network, connecting Pacific Beach with adjacent neighborhoods, schools, and parks
- The Balboa Ave Transit Center, which includes the Balboa Ave trolley stop, is a popular stop for commuters and sits on the east side of the I-5
- Garnet Ave experiences significant vehicular traffic, especially during peak hours and tourist seasons, with heavy congestion at its intersection with Mission Bay Dr
- Pedestrians fear for their safety walking along Garnet Ave toward Mission Bay Dr from the Balboa Ave Transit Ave as cars reach high speeds around 50 mph without a sidewalk buffer
- This segment of Garnet Ave does not contain bike lanes
- Sidewalks along this route are described as narrow, dirty, without vegetation, and uninviting to pedestrians
- Though the Balboa Ave Transit Ave is a very popular trolley stop, very few pedestrians walk down Garnet Ave to reach destinations within Pacific Beach
- Commuter recounts having to walk on grass and cut through business driveways to avoid fast traffic going eastbound on Garnet Ave



Intersection between Garnet Ave & Mission Bay Dr experiences heavy congestion



Cars merging onto Garnet Ave heading eastbound sometimes disregard pedestrians



Narrow sidewalk on Rose Creek bridge

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pedestrian safety is a major concern for commuters walking home from the Balboa Ave Transit Center toward Soledad Mountain Rd along Garnet Ave.
- Pedestrians need a convenient, safe, and attractive route to reach Mission Bay Park and Pacific Beach
- Bikes should be encouraged with major modifications to road layout and shoulders
- Sidewalk buffers can provide a sense of relief to pedestrians walking along a high-speed road like Garnet Ave