Transportation Authority of Marin

US 101/I-580 Multi-Modal and Local Access Improvement Project

Bellam Boulevard Workshop – Table 3 Notes

DRAFT June 7, 2024

The following is a summary of comments (loosely organized) made by members of the public at the May 29, 2024, Bellam Avenue workshop. Sybil Hatch and David Parisi facilitated conversations at a table comprised primarily of senior people from the Baypoint and Spinnaker neighborhoods. Most participants said that they drive along Bellam to get to the freeway, but don’t generally stop at the stores or facilities along the way.

# CHALLENGES ALONG THE BELLAM CORRIDOR

* Jaywalking and pedestrians crossing the road near the freeway interchanges
* There are a lot of cyclists, including sidewalk riders that cause bike/pedestrian conflicts
* People coming off the freeway have to cross several lanes of traffic, which causes weaving
* From the freeway to Bellam is three lanes; it’s confusing which lane to select to go where you want to go
* When entering the freeway northbound, the far-left lane going to Richmond blocks the lanes
* When exiting 101 N, left turn onto Bellam: there’s a bus stop near the interchange. If a bus is there, it blocks the lane and causes traffic to back up
* People entering/existing the gas station near the interchange cause congestion
* Cars back up on 101 S when trying to get off at Bellam. Takes people by surprise, as evidenced by lots of skid marks on the freeway.
* Panhandlers and vendors at the interchange are distracting.
* Kids walking home from school don’t look out for traffic.
* People double-park on the side streets.
* It’s scary driving at night. There are people jaywalking and running across the road.

# POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS ALONG THE BELLAM CORRIDOR

* Traffic lights should be synchronized
* There are vacant pieces of property along Bellam. Wondering whether they could be used in any way to improve traffic flow.
* Roundabouts are a learning curve, but if you live there, you would adapt.
* Suggest building a test or trial roundabout to see how it works, then modify accordingly.
* Bad idea to take a lane of traffic away.
* Need to consider future population growth when designing improvements.
* If there were safe bike lanes, some people would use them (maybe).
* Southbound on Bellam, people taking a right into the shopping center cause congestion. Possibly build an “offramp” (i.e. turning lane) into the shopping center.
* Street trees would calm traffic and make the corridor more attractive. One concern is that Public Works doesn’t have enough money to maintain trees and landscaping.
* Larkspur/Lucky Drive exit: could something like that be done here?