101-580 East San Rafael Street Fair

July 13, 2024

Community Input Notes

Key

For the City of San Rafael

For Transit Agencies

The following are notes recorded by the Voces del Canal engagement facilitators at the Bellam Corridor information stations during the Canal Neighborhood Street Fair on July 13, 2024. The comments are organized as follows:

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# Project Overview

1. *Where do you live? How did you find out about this event?*
2. *Did you already know anything about this project before today?*
3. *How do you use and move around Bellam Street?*
4. *Do you have any business there?*

* A person lives on Belvedere St. Through Canal Alliance he heard about the project. They don´t walk around Bellam St, because there are people drinking alcohol and there is no space to walk.
* Five people who live in Canal St, didn´t know about the project. One challenge is the insecurity in the streets.
* Five people live in Canal St and heard about the project at the community fair. They would like more pedestrian crossings.
* Three people who live on Sonoma St Canal didn´t know about the project. They usually drive a car or go on foot. Some challenges are the traffic and walking safety.
* Two people that live on Canal St. didn´t know about the project. They usually move by car, bicycle or by foot. The difficulties are pedestrian safety and traffic.
* Two people live on Fairfax St. They heard about the project. The challenges are traffic and pedestrian insecurity.
* Six people who live in Canal St known about Bellam Blvd. There is a need to set crosswalks on that Blvd. They drive a car.
* Two people live in Canal St and two live in Terra Linda St. The concerns are unsafe streets and lack of pedestrian crossings.
* Ten people live in Canal St. They go on foot, bicycle, or car.
* Eight people didn´t know about the project and two people did know about it. Some challenges are traffic, unsafety when people are walking or using their bicycles.
* Five people that live in Canal St. didn´t know about the project. Some issues are the absence of signs, there are no pedestrian traffic lights and streets are very small.
* Four people live in Canal St and didn´t know about the project. They usually move by bicycle, car or by foot. There are problems with traffic lights, lack of pedestrian crossings, traffic, and insecurity for pedestrians.
* A person, that lives in Canal St, didn´t know about the project. Insecurity makes difficult to cross the street. There is no protection for the bus stop in front of Ross and crossing the street is not safe. He goes on bus and on foot.
* Two people live in Canal and they didn´t know about the project. They’re transported around Bellam St by car. One challenge is that there are no safe crosswalks and there is a lot of traffic.
* One person that lives in Canal St didn´t know about the project. The challenges are that there are no crosswalks and a lot of traffic.
* Another person lives in Canal St. The problem is due to street sellers there is more traffic than usual. And there are no crosswalks.
* Two people that live in Canal St didn´t know about the project. One of the challenges is that there are no pedestrian crossings and no lighting.
* Two people live in Canal St near CA. They comment that Bellam St is their main boulevard to go out and they didn´t know about the project. They go by car. One challenge is the traffic and that there are no pedestrian crossings.
* One person, that lives in Canal St near CA, didn´t know about the project. One challenge is that there is a lot of traffic.
* Another person that lives in Canal St heard about the project from Canal Voices. They go on foot. One challenge is the traffic.
* Five people live in Canal St. They learned about the project due to the event. The challenge is the lack of intersections and traffic.
* Two people live in Canal St. They found out about the project from friends. The challenge is about crossing on Bellam Blvd because of the traffic and the lack of lighting.
* Four people live in Canal St. They knew about the event through CA. Bellam St needs safe streets, lighting, and pedestrian crossings. Some troubles are that there is no transport through Bellam St, no safe crossings and the traffic light takes a long time to change to cross to Ross Store
* Two people live in Canal St. They found out about the event through a WhatsApp Group and did not know about the project. Some challenges are that there are no pedestrian crossings and no lighting.
* Three people live in Canal St. They knew about the event because they were passing by. They know Bellam Blvd and usually walk through that area. The pedestrian crossings and sometimes the traffic lights doesn´t work are the main problems. They’d like to see more trees and safe crossings.
* One person lives at 19 Brookdale. She learned about the event while passing by but didn´t know about the project. She goes by car and doesn´t have any business. On Bellam St there are no stop signs, but these are needed.
* A person was with his daughter and found out the project because they saw the community fair. They usually go on foot or take the bus, but this is one of the problems.
* A person lives at 400 Canal St. He already knew about the event because another someone else told him about it. He usually goes by car or by foot. Drivers don´t respect stop signs and people tend to burn tires frequently.
* A person works near the location and heard about the event. He goes by car. The insecurity is the main problem.
* Another person knew about the event through CA, but didn´t know about the project. He lives on Canal St and goes by car. And he isn´t a business owner. Traffic and insecurity are the problems.
* Across the supermarket “Mi Tierra” is where another person lives, so he knew about the event. He goes by car, and he’d like a bike lane.
* A person that lives in Canal St knew about the event. He goes by car. Traffic and street sellers are the main problems.
* Six people who live on Canal St. didn´t know about the event. They go by car, bus, or by foot, and they aren´t business owners. There are problems with traffic lights and pedestrian safety.
* Two people that live in Canal St didn´t know about the event. They go by car. There is a problem with traffic and walking safely, so drivers should have more control with the speed limit. In addition, pedestrian crossings are needed too.

# Streets – Vicky and Flor

1. *Do you know the benefits of roundabouts at intersections? What has been your experience?*
2. *Of these improvements, which one would you like to see in Bellam? Why?*

* They think Larkspur Street would be safer with pedestrian lights.
* Belvedere would be safer with cameras.
* They don´t feel safe in Bellam because the cars pass very fast, so they should put more signs for pedestrian and put some cameras.
* Castro Street is very dangerous.
* The Bellam sidewalk is very small and is not suitable for walking.
* Bellam Street is safer.
* Bellam Street is the access to go to Canal Street.
* Canal Street is dangerous.

# Safety – Rosaura, Anabell, Verónica

1. *When do people use Bellam? Do they do this at night? Do they walk, ride bikes, or drive?*
2. *Which intersections and locations are the most dangerous in Bellam?*
3. *At which intersections and locations do people feel the safest? Why?*

* There are no crosswalks for pedestrians, and none for bicycles either.
* They use Bellam to get to Belvedere Street on foot, but the whole street is dangerous because the crosswalks are hard to see.
* The intersection of Belvedere to get to the Ross store is very dangerous; many accidents happen there. Bellam and Castro Street is also risky; there are no safe streets.
* There's a lot of traffic throughout Bellam, and more crosswalks are needed.
* Drivers don´t respect traffic lights and often run red lights.
* All exits from Bellam are very dangerous.
* We need cameras on the streets; Kerner, Bellam, and Belvedere are very hazardous.
* A group of children says they are afraid to walk or bike to school because they see cars speeding by.
* Cyclists don’t obey the traffic rules and often ride in the wrong direction without safety measures.
* There should be lights at crosswalks. The traffic is very heavy and it’s challenging to navigate.
* It's important to educate people because they don't know how to cross safely.
* The streets are very difficult to cross because drivers don’t yield.
* The traffic is very tough.

# Pedestrians and Bicycles – Gloria and Eva

1. *Which areas of Bellam do you consider safer for pedestrians and cyclists? Why?*
2. *Of these improvements, which ones would you like Bellam to prioritize? Why?*
3. *Are there other improvements that you would like the team to consider?*

* Six people commented that no street is safe for pedestrians and cyclists because drivers do not respect pedestrians.
* Schools should teach children on how to cross streets safely.
* Four people suggested adding a roundabout for cycling and pedestrian use in Bellam.
* Do not reduce the number of lanes.
* Four people mentioned the need for wider streets.
* Four people want to ensure respect for pedestrian and cyclist areas and suggested adding traffic lights.
* Eleven people mentioned the need for greater safety on the side of the restaurant "El Picante".
* Five people suggested that no street in Bellam is safe due to a lack of security for pedestrians and cyclists.
* Two people suggested that the roundabout is safer for pedestrians and cyclists.
* One person said that many people walk in Bellam.
* Two people said that it is necessary to improve the visibility of the pathways.
* Five people suggested, in addition to transportation, implementing a rental control measure.
* One person mentioned that only areas with traffic lights are safer.
* Five people said the importance of dedicated cycling lanes.
* Five people requested more signage.
* Five people said that is important to increased safety on Bellam Street, particularly near the gas station.
* Five people expressed that lane reassignment would work very well as it reduces traffic.
* Five people mentioned that the roundabout functions perfectly to alleviate traffic congestion.
* Two people said that there is no crosswalk to get to "More for Less."
* Six people suggested having more space for pedestrians and cyclists, highlighting the need for a roundabout.
* Building pedestrian bridges was also mentioned.
* One person opposes the roundabout.
* One person suggested improving signage, so drivers reduce their speed.
* Two people believe that a roundabout would improve visibility for cyclists.
* Two people indicated that lane reassignment is better for pedestrians and cyclists.
* Two people consider the roundabout a good option.
* One person said that streets where there’s more lighting are safer.
* Two people suggested changing entrances and exits to create more space.
* Two people mentioned the roundabout would be a good improvement.
* Two people would like lane reassignment for better results.
* Two people suggested a roundabout equipped with cameras and lights.
* Five people noted that there is no security for bicycles.
* Four people stated that signage also reduces dangers for pedestrians.
* Four people called for lane reassignment and a roundabout to enhance safety.

# Transit – Cruz and Berenice

1. *Look at the map to see the bus routes in Bellam. Do you use public transportation in Bellam?*
2. *Are you familiar with the benefits and issues that transportation users experience?*
3. *What are the most important and necessary improvements for bus stops and infrastructure?*

**Notes**:

* All comments in this section will be shared with the Marin Transit District and Golden Gate Transit.
* Routes 23, 35, 36, 130, and 580 traverse Bellam Boulevard.

**Routes: 362, 23, 150, 35.**

* Sometimes the bus is a little delayed.
* Signage should show schedules, and shelters should be provided to identify bus stops.

**Routes: 35, 22, 36.**

* Drivers are sometimes abusive, especially to people of color.
* There is a lot of trash, missing glass at stops with shelters for protection, more drains are needed to prevent water accumulation, and the shelters should be larger since it's very difficult to protect oneself from rain and heat, along with signage showing schedules.

**Routes: 23, 35, 36.**

* Young people are unruly during school exit times, and more transportation is needed. Buses take a long time to arrive.
* There’s a lot of trash, and trash bins are often used by people living nearby.

**Route: 35.**

* There is heavy congestion during peak hours, especially around school times.
* Shelters with protection are needed.

**Routes: 23, 35, 36.**

* More frequent bus service is required, and schedules should be expanded.
* There is a lot of trash and insufficient lighting. Larger shelters with more seating, and phone charging connections are needed.
* Someone said that don’t use transportation; the buses run the red lights. They need to be more careful and not place double trash bins.

**Routes: 1, 35, 36, 101.**

* There should be more protection, with complete windows due to when it rains, we get wet.

**Routes: 1, 35, 36.**

* More lighting, larger bus shelters, and solar lighting.

**Routes: 35, 23, 101, 580.**

* The drivers don’t wait, and they are not careful with elderly people.
* Improve bus shelters and install surveillance cameras in this.

**Routes: 1, 35, 23, 130.**

* Some drivers are rude.
* Identify stops with information about schedules.

**Routes: 1, 23, 35, 130.**

* Some drivers are friendly and helpful.
* More lighting is needed because they don’t feel safe. Some improvements like cameras and wider seats could be done.

**Routes: 1, 35, 36, 23, 101, 71.**

* Most drivers are not friendly.
* The drivers don´t accept student tickets or cards, they want cash payment.
* More lighting and cleanliness.

**Routes: 1, 35, 23, 71.**

* When they were on the bus, some loud and disorderly individuals caused trouble, and the driver didn’t intervene. This person said that when they got off, the others insulted them, and the driver did nothing.

**Routes: 1, 36, 23.**

* There should be more buses on weekends, they are too far apart.
* The stop at Novato and Canal is very dangerous. It’s too close to the intersection and the sidewalk.

**Routes: 1, 36, 35, 23.**

* Everything is fine with the buses and drivers.
* More lighting, larger for climate protection, cleaner, cameras, and trash bins.

**Routes: 1, 23, 35, 71.**

* The buses are punctual.
* The stops need more lighting, protection, and more transport for areas that are farther away.

**Routes: 1, 35, 36, Train 02.**

* The drivers are attentive, and the buses are clean.
* Clean stops with lighting; more frequent service and more buses.

**Routes: 1, 23, 35.**

* The drivers are attentive.
* Bus stops should have protection, spaciousness, lighting, water fountains, and making stops from vandal-resistant material.

**Routes: 1, 23, 101, 150, 130.**

* The drivers don’t always stop.
* Cameras, spacious bus stops, with more seating, well-lit, clean, with signs indicating the wait time for buses, and bus shelters should be designed for different weather conditions.

**Routes: 1, 35, 23.**

* Traffic; silent drivers.
* More space at the stops to sit. Trash cans and water fountains should be provided.

**Routes: 1, 35, 23, 36, 17, 130.**

* Some drivers are rude and can be racist.
* Trash bins filled with household garbage.
* Cameras, more lighting.

**Routes: 1, 36, 17, 101, 130, 150.**

* The buses are on time and clean.
* Benches to sit on and protection for different weather conditions are required.

**Routes: 35, 36.**

* All the transportation is good, it’s better than in my country.
* Cameras for enhanced security, more lighting; stops have trash from businesses, and they should have their own bins.

**Routes: 36, 35, 23.**

* Most drivers are friendly, although sometimes the buses are late.
* Install cameras for have more security; communicate with sellers to make them responsible for their own trash because there’s too much waste from businesses at the stops.

**Routes: 35, 36, Train.**

* Sometimes drivers can be rude.
* Buses that go to San Pedro and Glenwood schools are needed.
* More benches, lighting, and trash cans at the bus stops.

**Routes: 36, 101.**

* A female driver is very rude to people, especially if they have bags, she won’t stop.
* Install cameras, lighting and fix broken windows.

**Routes: 35, 36.**

* Someone said that drivers are nice to him, and the bus is clean.
* Shelters should be made of unbreakable and more spacious material.

**Routes: 35, and sometimes 101 SF.**

* Schedule is not respected.
* Larger shelters for better protection.

**Routes: 35, 36, Only Marin.**

* Drivers arrived late.
* Wider structures should be done. The bus stops are very dirty and smell bad.
* Drivers always stop at the bus stop and lower the step for elderly people, and they are kind.
* Bus stops should be more spacious.

**Routes: 35, 36.**

* One person said that everything is fine.
* Improve the stops to be larger since there are many people waiting for the bus, more cleanliness, and more lighting.

**Routes: 35, 36, 101.**

* The bilingual drivers are friendly.
* There should be no holes in the stops, and they should be spacious to protect us from rain and heat; we are many people on the bus, and we don’t fit at the stops.

**Routes: 35, 36, 101, 23.**

* The buses are comfortable sometimes.
* The drivers can be rude.
* More lighting in the bus stops.

**Routes: 35, 36, 101.**

* On Saturdays and Sundays, the buses arrived very late.
* The drivers ask people who have a baby to fold up strollers when the babies are asleep.

**Routes: 35, 36.**

* Another person said that everything is fine with the buses.
* Do not vandalize the stops; install cameras, more lighting, and cleanliness.

**Routes: 35, 36.**

* Sometimes the drivers are rude.
* At the Novato stop, there is no trash can.
* Lighting, security cameras, and schedule signs.

**Routes: 36, 35, 23, 101, 150, 130, 380.**

* Implement additional routes to facilitate access for people who don’t drive; more routes for certain schools like San Pedro and Glenwood that do not have access.
* The drivers do not wait for people to sit before departing, some have fallen due to their recklessness.
* Improve the transit app; it is sometimes delayed, and often does not reflect whether buses have left.
* Covered stops with protection for various weather conditions; the stops are very dark.

**Routes: 36, 23, 35, 71, 22.**

* The drivers are not very humane; they can be rude to adults. They don't greet, and at times when they don’t understand you, they tend to yell at people.
* There are no ramps for disabled individuals; more lighting and cameras are needed for us to feel safer, as well as notifications about when the bus will arrive.

**Route Census**

* 26 people use Route 35.
* 24 people use Route 36.
* 13 people use Route 71.
* 2 people use Route 17.
* 19 people use Route 23.
* 7 people use Route 101.
* 4 people use Route 130.
* 4 people use Route 150.
* 2 people use BART.
* 1 person used Route 580.
* 2 people take the train.
* 1 person used Route 22.
* 1 person used Route 228.
* 2 people used Route 49.

**Improvements for Bus Stops:**

* Lighting
* More spacious with roofs and protection.
* Clean.
* Trash bins.
* Cameras.
* Water fountains.
* More seating.
* Protection for various weather conditions.
* Signage.
* Schedule announcements.
* Multiple languages.

# Other Projects – Ziola-Irene

1. *Are there any concerns or suggestions you would like to discuss about other projects and locations in the community?*

* Pedestrian crossings are needed because drivers do not respect them.
* There should be more security at Bahia Vista School, and the apartment buildings require better maintenance.
* More lighting is needed, especially lights at bus stops and a designated area for bicycles.
* We need increased surveillance in the Canal community.
* Many people have dogs, and when they take them out, they don´t clean up after them; fines should be given for this.
* The streets need repairs, as they are very dangerous.
* More lights on the streets and speed bumps.
* On weekends, buses run late in the morning, so there should be more routes available for commuting to work.
* More security and speed control are required.
* Streetlights and speed bumps are needed on Bellam Street.
* A traffic light at the exit of Mi Tierra, on Belvedere and Medway Streets, is necessary.
* Improve the traffic lights on Bellam Boulevard.
* Safety for pedestrians and cyclists are essential.
* Transportation services are needed for the clinic.
* Surveillance in parking lots is needed to prevent blocking water pumps.
* Improve the bike lane and pedestrian crossings (including signage).
* A pedestrian overpass is needed at Bellam and Kerner.
* Improve cleanliness in the area.
* Increase monitoring of people who illegally dispose of furniture.
* More security is needed due to the high level of vandalism.
* People do not obey stop signs.
* More security is needed because people leaving church feel unsafe.
* Better lighting, cameras, and officers are necessary since there is only one patrol for the entire Canal area.
* Canal Street and Sonoma need speed bumps for drivers who are speeding.
* They need lights at pedestrian crossings and bus stops.
* Bike lanes and pedestrian areas should be improved.
* Enhance sidewalks for pedestrians and cyclists and provide signs at street crossings.
* Improve trash cans.
* People expressed their gratitude for organizing this event to inform the community.
* Bicycle storage is needed on Fairfax Street.

# Bellam Corridor Maps – Marina

## Map #1

1. *Where do you think it is necessary to improve Bellam Boulevard?*

* The bus stop in front of the mail office doesn´t have functional protection for the different seasons. Also, the avenue should have more lighting.
* Another bus stop, just in front of Marin Square, doesn´t have any infrastructure for pedestrian and no bus schedules.
* The sidewalk in front of Ross is narrow.
* On Anderson St corner with Bellam, it’s dangerous cross into the second lane and the traffic lights need to be improved.
* Just in front of Ross, the street is narrow. There isn´t space for cyclists and cars.
* There is no pedestrian crossing under the 580 bridge; it is needed.
* The traffic lights at Francisco Blvd and Bellam Blvd intersection sometimes doesn´t work. Also, drivers don´t respect the traffic lights and they don´t let pedestrians cross the street.
* A crosswalk is needed at Bellam Blvd and Castro Av intersection and at Belvedere St with Bellam Blvd intersection a pedestrian crossing with flashing lights is also required.
* People are asking to put another pedestrian crossing on Kerner Blvd.
* On Canal St, people need more trees to provide shade.
* Lighting is needed at Cardenas Market.
* On Anderson Dr towards 101st St there are no sidewalks.
* There is no sidewalk at Woodland Ave either.
* Under the 101 freeway, there is no lighting or sidewalk for pedestrians to cross. The traffic light that leads from the 101 to the 580 does not provide enough time for pedestrians to cross the street.
* The traffic light for going up to the 101 North is dangerous; people do not respect the signal.
* On Bellam Blvd, there are many parked cars, and there is no space for bicycles. On Kerner Blvd, it is difficult to turn to go to Cárdenas.

1. *What are the priority locations?*

* The bus stops on Bellam Blvd in front of Ross.
* Traffic lights in good working condition on Bellam.
* Improve the crosswalks on Bellam Blvd and make wide sidewalks.

1. *What kind of improvements would you like to see?*

* Improve traffic on Bellam Blvd.
* Improve the timing of traffic lights for pedestrians and people with disabilities.
* Brighter and safer paths for pedestrians.
* More shade trees and green areas.
* Improve sidewalks.
* More surveillance at night and on weekends.
* Bicycle lanes.
* Complete streets.
* Less traffic on Bellam in the mornings and afternoons.

## Map #2

1. *Where do you think it is necessary to improve transportation along the Bellam Boulevard?*

* Bellam needs improvements in crosswalks, traffic lights, and bus stops.
* Control speed limits.

1. *What are the priority locations?*

* The corner of Kerner and Bellam Blvd.
* The corner of Larkspur Street and Kerner; the crossing is not safe.
* Andersen Street is a dangerous road to get to Dollar Tree.
* *What types of improvements would you like to see?*
* Speed bumps on the streets.
* Put thick white lines.
* Cleanliness on the streets.

## Map #3

1. *Where do you believe improvements are necessary for transportation in the Bellam Boulevard corridor?*

* On Kerner and Bellam.
* On Francisco Boulevard E and Bellam.

1. *What are the priority locations?*

* There is no pedestrian crossing at Castro Ave and Bellam, but people have to cross the street (person hit).
* On Bellam, there is no designated area for workers; they need one.
* Speed control on Bellam, with speed limit signs.
* Mark visible lanes.
* Improve sidewalks on all streets.
* At exit 101 connecting to the 580, the traffic light takes too long for pedestrians.
* Requesting a pedestrian bridge on Francisco Blvd, towards the 580 exits.

1. *What types of improvements would you like to see?*

* Safe streets for pedestrians.
* Gardens with shade trees.
* A roundabout to control traffic at Francisco Blvd and Bellam would be very functional.
* Speed bumps.
* Properly functioning traffic lights.
* A bike lane with safety barriers from Francisco Blvd to the El Picante restaurant.
* Paint pedestrian crossings.
* Wide sidewalks.
* A pedestrian crossing with lights at Belvedere and Bellam.