

**Transportation Authority of Marin**  
**US 101 / I-580 Multi-Modal and Local Access Improvements Project**  
**Bellam Boulevard Workshop #1 Summary Report**  
**August 26, 2024**

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*This memo summarizes outreach efforts and community input collected for proposed modifications to Bellam Boulevard, as part of the US 101 / I-580 Multi-Modal and Local Access Improvements Project.*

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## PUBLIC WORKSHOP

As part of the US 101/I-580 Multi-Modal & Local Access Improvement Project, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) hosted a public workshop to gather input from the community regarding their needs, usage patterns, and possible solutions for the Bellam Boulevard corridor from Kerner Avenue to Anderson Drive.

*Map of Bellam Boulevard:*



The Bellam corridor is part of the US 101/I-580 Multi-Modal & Local Access Improvement project and provides a critical connection between east San Rafael communities to businesses, shopping, schools, and work.

The workshop was held at the Marin Health and Wellness Connection Center in San Rafael on May 29, 2024, from 5:30-7:30 pm.

### Format

The workshop format included project information display boards and an informational presentation by the project team followed by small group discussions for attendees to provide input regarding their concerns and solutions for the Bellam corridor.



Arriving attendees were free to explore information displays with printed posterboards before a brief presentation hosted by TAM and representatives from the TAM project team. Participating agencies included TAM, the City of San Rafael, Marin County Transit District, and Golden Gate Transit.

Following the presentation, attendees were divided into small groups at tables with large, printed maps of the Bellam corridor. Each table was staffed by two project team members to guide the conversation. The discussion was focused on identifying uses and needs within the corridor. Attendees wrote comments directly on the maps and discussed their concerns and possible solutions with project team members.



### **Workshop Materials**

The following printed materials were developed for the public workshop:

#### ***Presentation Slide Deck***

The Kimley Horn team developed a presentation slide deck to support the workshop. A copy of the presentation is available on the [project web page](#).

#### ***Posterboards***

Six 24x36 posterboards were developed covering a project overview, accident data, bus routes in the area, possible traffic and bike-ped solutions, and an overview of other ongoing projects in the corridor.

#### ***Table Maps***

Large maps of the Bellam corridor were printed and placed at each discussion table to facilitate discussions. Comments were recorded directly on the maps or on sticky notes.

#### ***Paper Surveys***

A paper survey was made available to attendees at the sign-in station. The survey was also available on the TAM project website through August 2, 2024.

### **Key Performance Indicators**

KPI	#
Estimated attendees (based on sign-in sheet records)	52
Paper surveys collected	31
Mailing list sign-ups	31

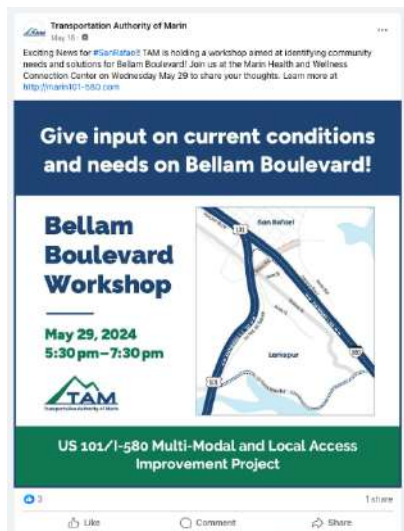
## OUTREACH MATERIALS

The following outreach collateral was developed to support outreach efforts. All material was translated into Spanish.

### Invitational Material

#### **Digital Media**

A suite of social media and e-blast content was developed and deployed to promote the Bellam Boulevard workshop. Content was distributed by TAM via their newsletter and social media channels (Facebook and X). *Example social media post:*



#### **Press Release**

A press release announcing the workshop written and issued by TAM to TAM's media contacts.

### Informational Materials

#### **Fact Sheet**

An updated project fact sheet was developed and printed for the public workshops and is available on the [project web page](#).

#### **Website Content**

An updated project description and FAQ content were developed and deployed to the [project web page](#). Content for a short blurb promoting the public workshop and survey was posted on TAM's homepage.

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

The following section gives a high-level overview of input collected via workshop discussions, paper surveys, and the online survey at the May Bellam Boulevard workshop. A separate summary report documents input received through Spanish-language outreach in the Canal neighborhood, a street fair on July 13, and paper and online surveys.

### Workshop Discussion Tables

Workshop participants discussed several key issues and suggestions for improving traffic and safety along the Bellam corridor and surrounding areas.



**Summary of Discussion Table Feedback**

Topic	Summary of Input
Congestion Problems	<p>Morning commute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signal timing at Kerner Boulevard.</li> <li>• Single lane on Andersen Drive and Francisco Boulevard East to access southbound 101.</li> </ul> <p>Afternoon commute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short merge and crossing traffic at Bellam/Eastbound 580 off-ramp.</li> <li>• Multiple turn movements at Bellam and Francisco Boulevard East.</li> </ul>
I-580 Interchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastbound 580 off-ramp is dangerous when it backs up onto the freeway.</li> <li>• Westbound 580 off-ramp traffic to northbound Francisco Boulevard East blocks Bellam Boulevard traffic.</li> <li>• Consider closing the eastbound 580 on-ramp.</li> <li>• Consider eliminating the westbound 580 off-ramp.</li> <li>• Consider moving the westbound 580 on-ramp.</li> </ul>
Signal Timing Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerner and Bellam.</li> <li>• Bellam off-ramp.</li> <li>• Synchronize signals in Bellam corridor.</li> </ul>
Turning Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate some left turn movements from Bellam to side streets or driveways.</li> <li>• Eliminate left turn to eastbound 580 on-ramp.</li> <li>• Add a second left turn to westbound 580 on-ramp.</li> <li>• Add a second right turn from Kerner to Bellam.</li> </ul>
Bicycle and Pedestrian	<p>Bicycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety and connections at 580 interchange.</li> <li>• Connections to Cal-Park bike path.</li> <li>• Lack of protected bikeways.</li> </ul> <p>Pedestrian:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crosswalk safety at 580 off-ramps, Francisco Boulevard East, and Andersen</li> <li>• Lack of crosswalks between Francisco Boulevard East and Kerner.</li> <li>• Sidewalk gap on Andersen under 101.</li> <li>• Signal timing for pedestrians.</li> </ul>

Topic	Summary of Input
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right turn on red at Andersen and Francisco Boulevard East.</li> </ul>
Landscaping Lighting, and Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve lighting east of Francisco Boulevard East.</li> <li>• Lower median landscaping to improve sight lines.</li> <li>• Add trees throughout the corridor.</li> <li>• Ensure that San Rafael has resources to maintain landscaping.</li> <li>• Do not eliminate parking near the Canal neighborhood.</li> </ul>

A survey was created to identify community needs and usage on Bellam Boulevard. The survey was available online and via paper copies distributed at the Bellam Boulevard workshop. The online survey launched on June 1 and closed August 2.

**Key Performance Indicators**

KPI	#
Total Survey Responses	78
Open-ended comment responses	80
Mailing list sign-ups	21

**Summary of Survey Responses**

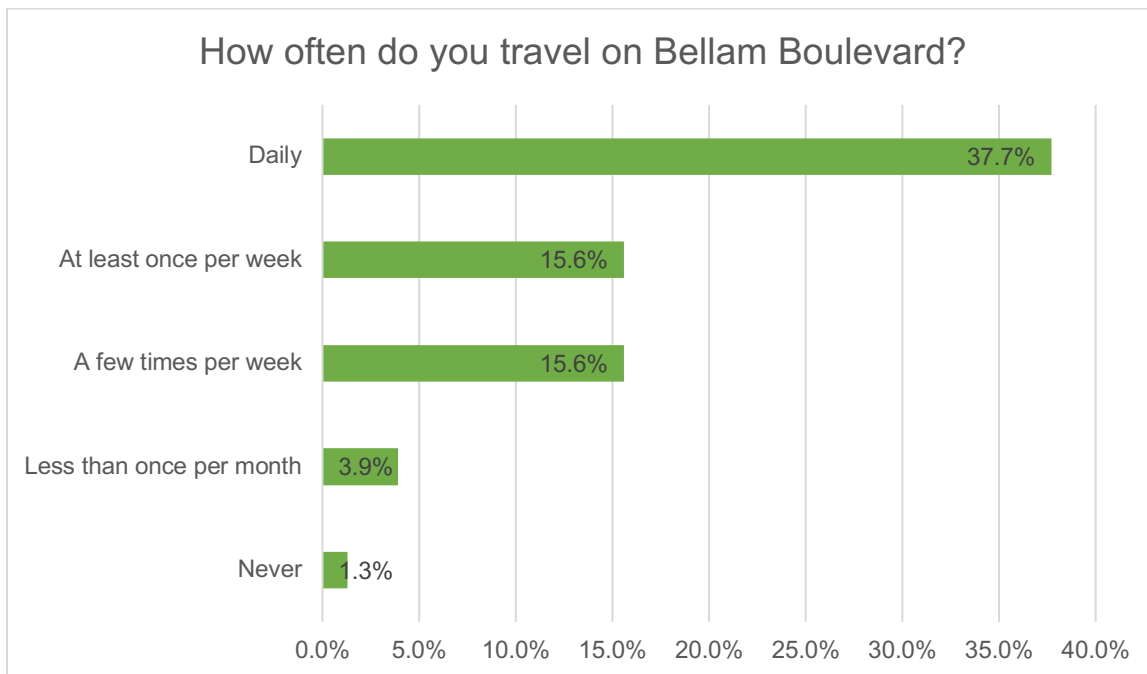
- **Frequency of Travel:** Most respondents were frequent users of Bellam Boulevard, with the majority indicating daily (38%) or weekly (31%) usage.
- **Reasons for Travel:** The majority of respondents identified as either living nearby (53%) or working nearby (35%). The most popular reasons for travel included accessing dining/shopping services (47%) or passing through to get to another destination not listed (57%).
- **Mode of Travel:** Driving was the most common mode of travel (96%), followed by cycling (33%), walking (27%), and using transit (12%). Over half of respondents indicated they would be more likely to bike or walk along Bellam Boulevard if improvements were implemented.
- **Travel Challenges:** The most significant challenges were traffic congestion (88%) and bicycle-pedestrian comfort and safety (47%)
- **Desired Improvements:** Respondents expressed a strong desire for measures that improve traffic flow, such as better signal timing and turn restrictions (62%), and better access to and from freeways (51%), and improved bike lanes (47%). Better crosswalks and signals for pedestrian safety were also important (49%).
- **Other Locations or Intersections for Improvement:** Respondents highlighted the need for improvements at the intersections with Francisco Blvd East, Bellam and

Anderson Dr., and Bellam and Woodland. Issues in the post office area, especially concerning bike lanes and crossing safety, were frequently mentioned. General signal improvements and concerns about traffic backups at the Anderson intersection with the SMART train were also noted.

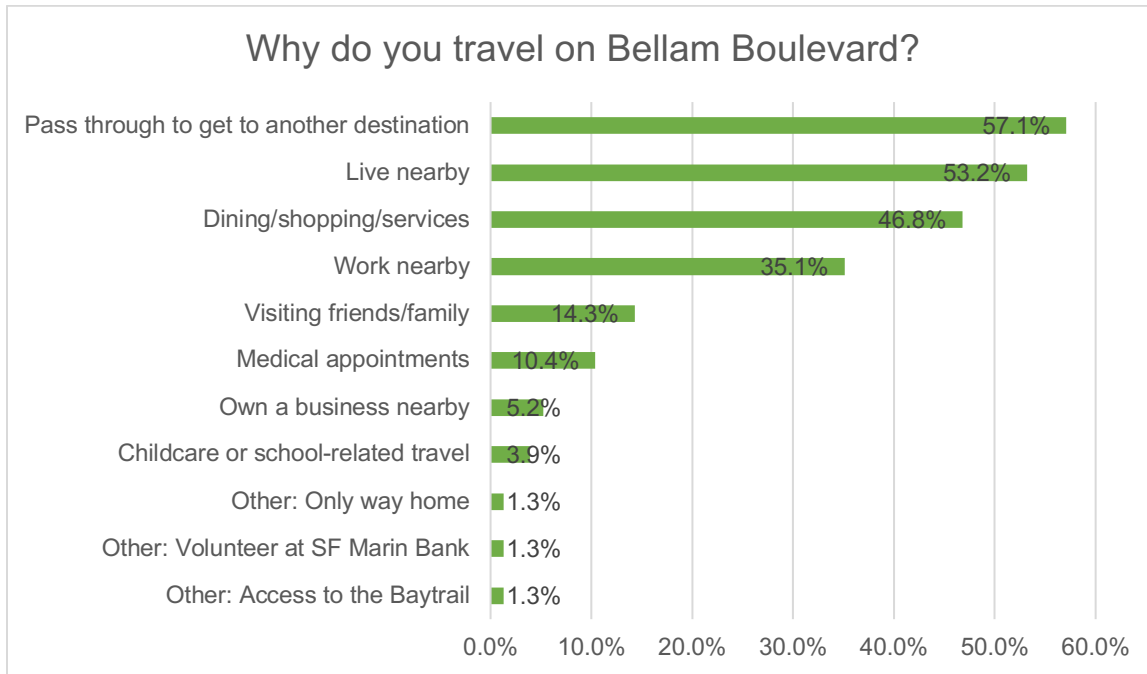
- **Additional Comments:** Suggestions focused on improving traffic flow with direct lanes from Bellam Blvd to 580 and additional off-ramps. Concern about noise pollution from the 101/580 connector was mentioned. Other responses emphasized prioritizing public transit, protected bike lanes, and improved traffic light timing.

### **Responses by Question**

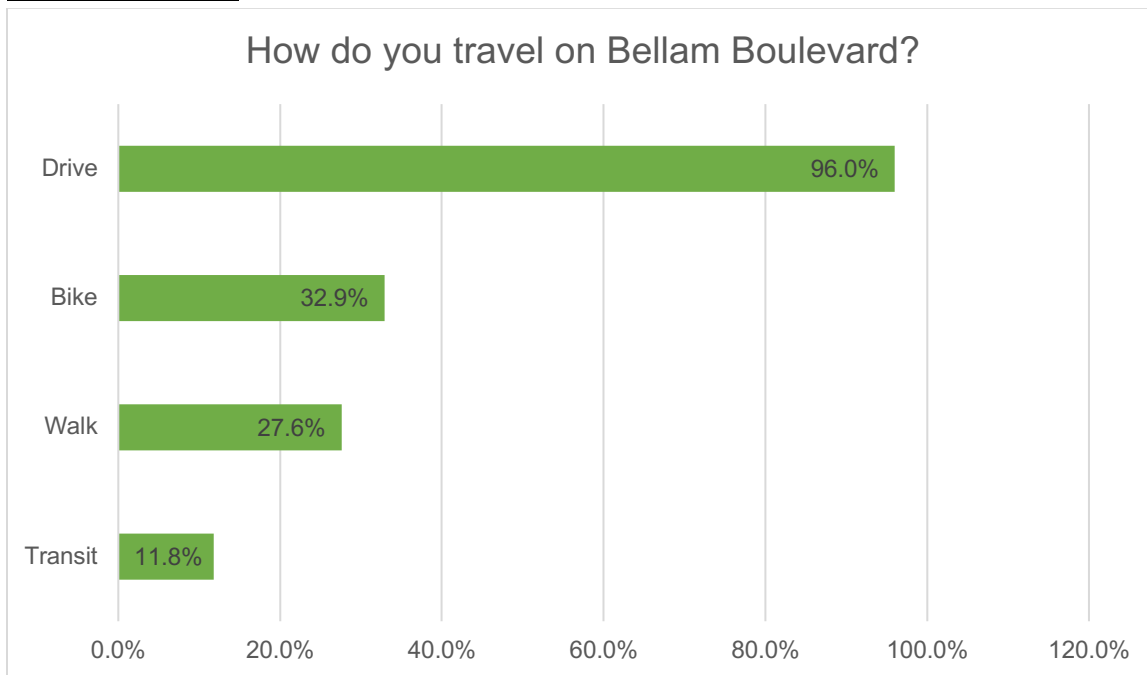
#### Q1. Travel frequency



**Q2. Reasons for travel**



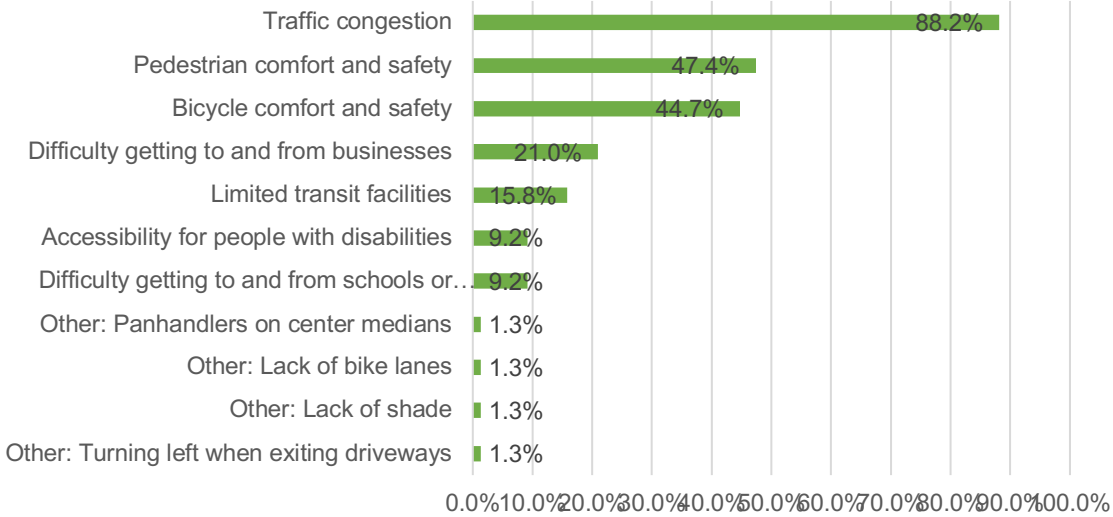
**Q3. Travel modes**



**Q4. Transportation challenges**

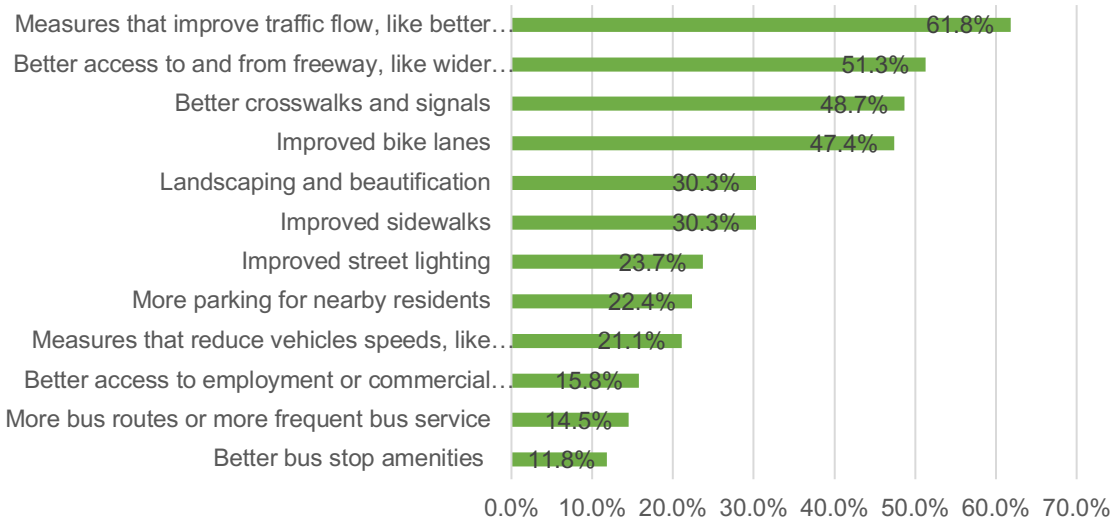


### What are some of the biggest challenges you face when traveling on Bellam?

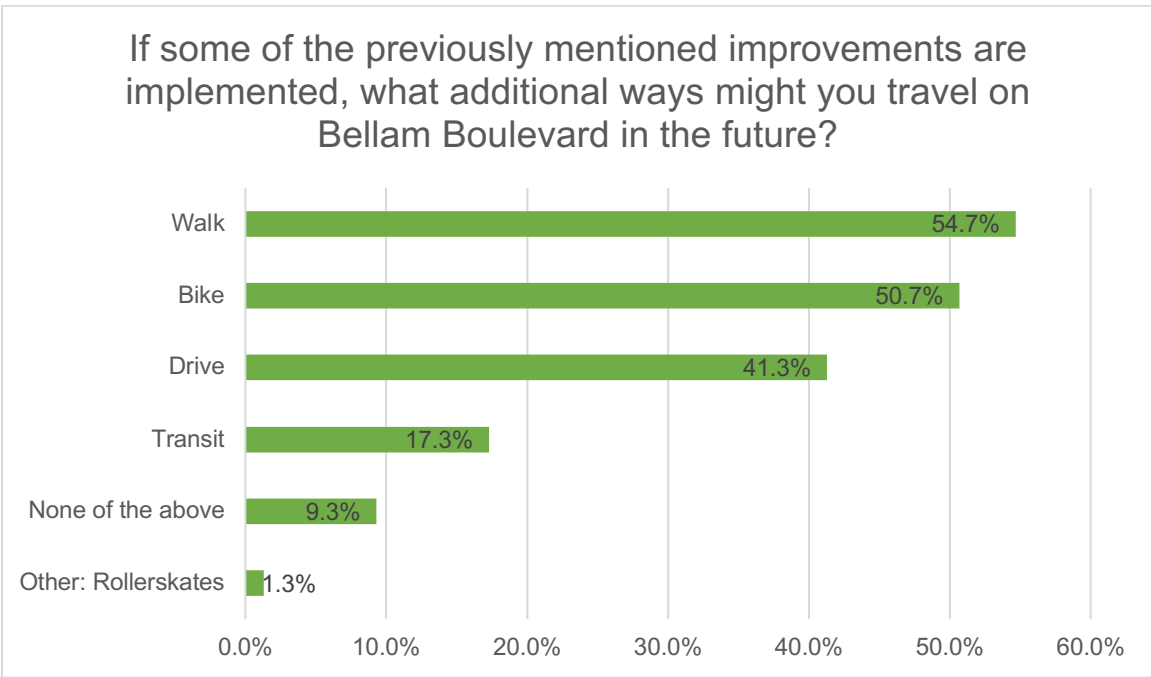


### Q5. Desired Improvements

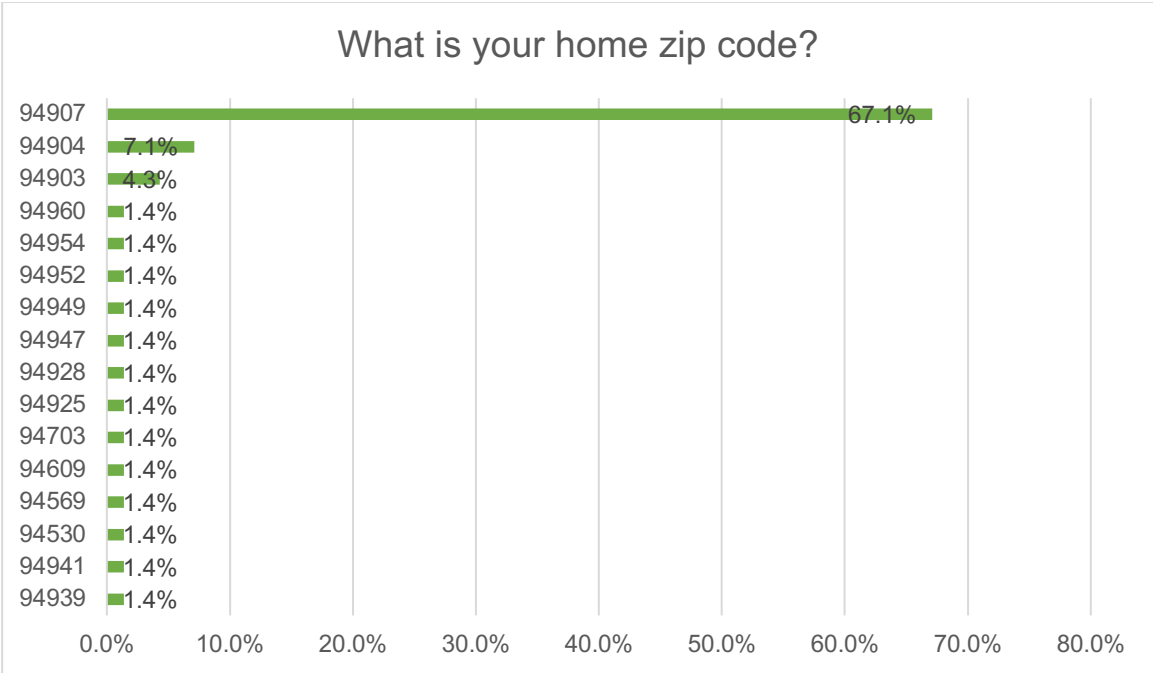
#### What improvements would you like to see on Bellam Boulevard?



### Q6. Travel modes if improvements are implemented



**Q7. Breakdown by zip code**



## NEXT STEPS

A follow-up workshop will be scheduled in fall 2024, to present initial design concepts to address the issues along the corridor and report back on how community input collected during this workshop was incorporated into concept development.

## APPENDICES

Materials referenced in this summary report are provided in a separate appendix folder. The following table serves as a reference for the included files.

### Appendix A: Outreach Materials

Item	File Name
Presentation slide deck	A1_Presentation
Invitational material	A2_InvitationalMaterial
Posterboards	A3_Posterboards
Fact Sheet	A4_Fact Sheet
Website content	A5_Updated_Website_Content
FAQ content	A6_Updated FAQ_Content
Press release	A7_PressRelease
Social media graphic	A8_SM_Graphic

### Appendix B: Public Input

Item	Location
Discussion table maps and notes	B4_TableMaps
Discussion Table Comments	B5_TableComments
Survey responses (visualized)	B6_SurveyVisual