



STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM NO: 6.a

MEETING DATE: January 9, 2025

To: Traffic Safety and Parking Commission

Date: January 9, 2025

From: Andrew Wong, Senior Engineer

Subject: Proposal to Implement a Right-Turn Only Restriction At the Westbound Approach of Bellevue Avenue at El Camino Real Intersection

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Traffic Safety and Parking Commission (TSPC) review the staff proposal to implement a “right-turn only” restriction along westbound Bellevue Avenue at El Camino Real intersection; discuss, and then determine the level of community support for the proposed change.

BACKGROUND

El Camino Real (ECR) is a major arterial within Burlingame, carrying approximately 30,000 vehicles per day. Along ECR, there are 23 intersections within the Burlingame City Limits, with 15 of them signalized. Bellevue Avenue intersection is not signalized, with stop-controls only on the Bellevue Avenue approaches. ECR is owned and operated by Caltrans, while the east side of El Camino Real is in Burlingame’s right-of-way. Portions on the west side of ECR are in both the City’s and the Town of Hillsborough.

Along ECR there are numerous eucalyptus trees of varying sizes; due to their trunk diameters, they reduce a driver’s visibility of oncoming vehicles when exiting from any of the intersections onto ECR. Bellevue Avenue is not the only intersection where these trees affect driver visibility, but it is a non-signalized intersection. In the past, a “no left-turn” restriction for westbound Bellevue Avenue onto ECR was installed to reduce potential safety concerns. Despite this improvement, westbound drivers continue to face challenges when exiting onto ECR due to limited visibility.

The El Camino Real Renewal Project will significantly improve the above conditions by removing some of the trees and will significantly improve the roadway’s surface with new

pedestrian infrastructure. More importantly, the project is proposing the installation of a flashing pedestrian beacon (RRFB) at this intersection.

At the October 2018 TSPC meeting, the Commission discussed an option of a full closure of the westbound approach to eliminate the challenges faced by westbound drivers. At that time, the public support for that change was not strong as residents in the immediate area were not supportive of the proposal as they believed the access impacts of a full closure would be too severe.

However, over the past year, there has been an increase in the number of collisions at the Bellevue Avenue/ECR intersection. Per the collision reports, some of these collisions are associated with drivers attempting to cross ECR.

DISCUSSION

Staff is proposing to restrict access for westbound Bellevue Avenue at ECR such that only right turns are allowed at the intersection. This would eliminate the westbound through movement from Bellevue Avenue across ECR significantly reducing the potential collision hazard. It is important to note that signs restricting the westbound left-turns are already in-place.

If approved, this change will be implemented through the use of signs, pavement striping, and the addition of “channelizers” to further deter drivers from attempting to make left-turns onto or crossing ECR. With the proposed change, the westbound through and left-turn movements at ECR would occur at either Floribunda Avenue or Chapin Avenue, which are both signalized intersections and have better right-of-way assignment than the Bellevue intersection. With ECR owned by Caltrans, the process of making this change will involve coordination with them. Prior to initiating this coordination, staff is seeking community feedback. Based on Commission’s and community feedback, staff will take next steps in pursuing the design of the “right-turn only” restriction along the westbound approach of Bellevue Avenue at ECR and coordinate with Caltrans accordingly.

Based on the above, staff is seeking a TSPC motion of support to move forward with designing the changes.

ATTACHMENTS

Presentation