



REED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 15, 2025

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Transit Coordination
Caltrans - District 4
Office of Transit & Active Transportation
Mail Station 10-D
PO Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623-066

RE: Urgent Concerns Regarding SR131 Project Impact on Reed Union School District (RUSD) Yellow Bus Program & Safe Student Transportation

Dear Caltrans Representatives,

The Reed Union School District (RUSD) Board of Trustees writes to express our concern regarding certain design elements of the proposed SR131 project. Specifically, the proposed bike lanes between Blackfield Drive and Trestle Glen Boulevard as designed both imperil bus transportation for a number of our students and potentially encourage young students to bike along a busy transit corridor when a safer route is currently available to all bikes along Greenwood Beach Road.

RUSD is an elementary school district serving children in Belvedere, East Corte Madera, and Tiburon. In 2016, RUSD partnered with the Town of Tiburon and the City of Belvedere to form the The Tiburon Peninsula Traffic Alliance (TPTA) and to establish the Yellow Bus Program. The Yellow Bus Program currently transports over 500 students daily to and from Reed Elementary, Bel Aire Elementary, and Del Mar Middle School, including many of our students who qualify for free and reduced lunch under federal law ("priority students"). This initiative both significantly reduces vehicle traffic during peak commute times and provides our young students with safe and efficient transportation to school.

At our recent board meeting, we reviewed the proposed SR131 project and identified two critical issues.

First, the proposed bike lanes between Blackfield Drive and Trestle Glen Boulevard render four existing, essential bus stops on Tiburon Boulevard unusable: Union Station, Cecilia Way, Blackie's Pasture, and Jefferson Drive. The current Caltrans design does not appear to accommodate 40-foot school buses at those stops but instead requires the 40-foot school buses to completely obstruct the bike lines while stopped to load and unload students (who can be as young as 4 years old). First Student (the bus provider) stated in

writing that because of this bike lane obstruction, safety regulations will prevent it from serving those 4 bus stops. This effectively eliminates these stops and jeopardizes the program's ability to serve children who live in nearby neighborhoods, including priority students who may not have any other option for safe transport to school. It also would eliminate revenue from bus passes sold to other children in those neighborhoods, undermining the financial viability of the entire Yellow Bus Program. Finally, it would significantly impact a proposed after-school pilot program, which would help priority students and other students access after-school activities, including tutoring.

Second, a number of RUSD students currently bike to school and use an established route along Greenwood Beach Road that connects Blackfield Drive to the multi-use path at Blackie's Pasture. This is a safe route along a local road with a 25 MPH speed limit. We are concerned that Caltrans current design between Blackfield Drive and Trestle Glen Boulevard will encourage some students to bike along Tiburon Boulevard where the speed limit is 45 MPH instead of the existing and safer route.

We fully support Caltrans' efforts to improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure, but improvements cannot compromise student safety as the current plan does. The proposed bike lanes between Blackfield Drive and Trestle Glen Boulevard also do not improve bike infrastructure but simply shift bikes from an existing, safer route to Tiburon Boulevard.

We look forward to your prompt attention to this matter and a constructive dialogue to resolve these concerns.

Sincerely,

Reed Union School District Board of Trustees

cc: Town of Tiburon
City of Belvedere
Marin Transit
Tiburon Peninsula Traffic Alliance (TPTA)
Senator Mike McGuire
Assemblymember Damon Connolly