
From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 4:00 PM
To: City Council
Cc: BPAC Communication
Subject: 6/11/24 meeting agenda item 4.5 -- Trip caps

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To: Mountain View City Council
From: Joel Dean, 750 N. Shoreline Blvd., MV
Subject: Trip cap reports

Ho hum. Another year, another boilerplate report, full of excruciatingly detailed data well past its stale date, and sounding like all is hunky-dory at the gateways to North Bayshore. Do not be deceived.

The morning commute on Shoreline Boulevard has been a mess since spring 2023, when Caltrans flip-flopped the signal sequence at the 101/85N/Avenida intersection three times. At first, Mountain View DPW did not adjust the timing of the traffic light at Pear Avenue to ensure optimum progression, which significantly reduced throughput and blockaded Shoreline, Avenida, and the 101S off-ramp. In mid-July, a correction was made and worked so well I sent a compliment to DPW. Remind me never to do that again. After one week, the timing of the Pear signal reverted to its previous miserable state, and DPW has stonewalled entreaties to undo this mistake.

As of mid-May 2024, the situation has gotten drastically worse. The Pear signal used to operate on the same 150-second cycle as 101/85/Avenida, so that interruptions caused by backups from Pear, though obnoxious, were at least predictable. But now, cycles at Pear are longer -- anywhere from 160 seconds to three minutes -- and give northbound Shoreline a lower percent share of green time. As a result, the two signals are out of sync and freeway off-ramp traffic comes to a standstill as often as Shoreline used to (and still does). At 9:30 this morning, Tuesday 6/11, the stationary queues on northbound Shoreline extended all the way from Avenida to Mountain Shadows Drive and on northbound 85, all the way across the 101 flyover. Conditions have not been this lousy since before the pandemic. They are likely to get worse very soon, when the apartment complexes at 1300 Avenida and 1001 Shoreline open up.

I ask Council to exercise its oversight function, find out why this situation was allowed to develop, and motivate the responsible parties to do something about it. Don't suggest contacting AskMV -- that has been tried, and it did not work.

Thank you for your attention.