



PAM IORIO
MAYOR

August 9, 2007
Honorable Chairman
and Members of the City Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I present for your consideration the City of Tampa's Recommended Capital Improvement (CIP) budget for FY08 through FY13.

The FY08 theme is "Providing Quality Services." This theme continues our commitment to delivering outstanding services to enhance the quality of life within our community.

This year's CIP budget totals \$118.7 million, an increase of 54% over last year's program of \$77.2 million. This is comprised of \$53.2 million of recurring funds and \$65.5 million of previously appropriated bond funds expected to be spent in FY08. The large increase over FY07 is largely attributable to new bond issues secured by wastewater and community investment tax funds.

Emphasis continues in FY08 on the water, wastewater and stormwater departments for expanded infrastructure replacement programs. The bonds for the Wastewater Department address long standing issues, including the 12th Street Force Main Replacement project that will cost approximately \$16 million. Additionally, to get projects underway, we will utilize commercial paper, a quick, short-term financing tool, for water and stormwater projects pending bond issues. In the Water Department, over 15% of our system's pipes are at or beyond its useful life. Because of this, breaks in the system are increasing which drives up our maintenance costs (including overtime) and our water loss rate. To help alleviate this problem and accelerate the replacement program, the Water Department has proposed a five-year water rate schedule. With these rate increases Tampa water customers will continue to pay the lowest water rates within the Tampa Bay area. The Stormwater Department has made real strides and is in the third year of a five-year \$60 million program to address long-neglected flooding and drainage issues. The FY08 stormwater CIP program will address construction of 11 high-priority flooding relief projects. Land acquisition and design is underway for a new pumping station in the Drew Park Community Redevelopment Area. This project, when completed, will alleviate the drainage problem that has plagued this area for a number of years.

The third five-year program of the \$86 million Community Investment Tax (CIT) is in its second year and continues to be a success. The CIT program will continue to be dedicated to providing quality parks and recreation, Tampa Fire Rescue and neighborhood transportation programs for sidewalks, traffic calming, signage and resurfacing. Our fire rescue stations continue to need improvements and upgrades. Over the next four years, annual CIT funds are providing roof replacement, new flooring, and fire station painting. Additionally, three stations, one new and two replacements, are planned to be constructed over the next four years. FY08 dollars will be used to acquire land and design for a new fire station #22 in New Tampa and to order an engine and aerial vehicles. Our parks and recreation needs are being addressed with a \$17 million bond issued in FY07. Some of the projects funded with this bond issue include Ballast Point pier and boat ramp reconstruction, Cyrus Greene Pool improvements, renovation of the Seminole Garden Center, a new community center in Springhill Park and construction of the New Tampa Community Center.

Significant among the City of Tampa's construction projects is the 40th Street project, funded by the city and the Florida Department of Transportation. This \$100 million project expands 40th Street from two to four lanes from Hillsborough Avenue to Fowler Avenue. The long awaited 40th Street bridge segment, from Hanlon Street to Hanna Street is 35% complete. Over the past year a number of significant projects have been completed. Among these are: Cross Creek Boulevard widening (\$6.9 million); Manhattan Avenue widening from Gandy Boulevard to Euclid Avenue (\$9.3 million); and the District III police station in East Tampa - continuing our commitment to a safer environment for our East Tampa residents (\$9.2 million).

Our Investing in Neighborhoods program has always been a priority of this administration. This program focuses on sidewalks, traffic calming devices, signage and road surface projects. In FY03, when I took office, the program was \$2.59 million. In FY08 the program will be \$6.45 million, an increase of 149%.

Our capital improvement budget for FY08 reflects our commitment to you - a commitment to providing quality services - a commitment to deliver outstanding services to make Tampa the most desirable place to live, learn, work and play.

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pam Iorio".

Pam Iorio, Mayor