

PAM IORIO
MAYOR

August 7, 2008
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 FY09 through FY14.

The FY09 theme is "Commitment to Progress." Even in an economic slowdown we believe that the city should aggressively build infrastructure.

This year's CIP budget totals \$169.2 million, an increase of 43% over last year's program of \$118.7 million. This is comprised of \$65.5 million of recurring funds and \$103.7 million of previously appropriated bond funds expected to be spent in FY09. The large increase over FY08 includes a continuation of spending of bond funds in water, wastewater and community investment tax projects. Additionally, upwards of \$100 million may also be used from commercial paper to get projects underway. Commercial Paper is an economical, short-term financing tool for water and stormwater projects pending bond issues.

Emphasis continues in FY09 on the water, wastewater and stormwater departments for expanded infrastructure replacement programs. Wastewater Department bonds continue to address long standing issues, including the 12th Street Force Main Replacement project, replacing 20,500 feet of pipe, at a cost of approximately \$19.6 million. In the Water Department, over 15% of our system's pipes are at or beyond their useful life. Because of this, breaks in the system are increasing which drive up our maintenance costs (including overtime) and our water loss rate. To help alleviate this problem and accelerate the replacement program, a five-year water rate schedule was approved to begin in FY08. With these rate increases, Tampa water customers will continue to pay the lowest water rates in the Tampa Bay area. The Stormwater Department has made real strides and is in the fourth year of a five-year \$60 million program to address long-neglected flooding and drainage issues. With additional revenue from various sources the Stormwater Department added several major stormwater projects, increasing the five-year plan to \$107 million. The FY09 stormwater CIP program will address construction of three high-priority flooding relief projects and three drainage improvement projects. Land acquisition and design is underway for a new pumping station, Curiosity Creek Pump Station, in the north central 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 Community Investment Tax (CIT) is in its third year and continues to be a success. The CIT program is 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, four stations, two new and two replacements, are planned to be constructed over the next four years. In FY07 funds were set aside to replace fire station #19 in Port Tampa. However, a site has not yet been determined. In FY08 land will be purchased for fire station #22 in New Tampa. FY09 dollars will be used for construction of fire station #22 in New Tampa and land will be acquired for a new station in Sulphur Springs. Our parks and recreation needs are being addressed with a \$17.0 million bond issued in FY07. Some of the projects already funded with this bond issue include the 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. The Cyrus Greene Pool and the New Tampa Community Center have been completed and are open.

In FY08 a contract was executed for \$24.8 million for the construction of the new Tampa Museum of Art. Funding for the museum will come from a Community Investment Tax Bond (CIT) and from the Tampa Museum of Art, Inc. A contract for the Curtis Hixon Park was also executed in FY08 for \$12.4 million. Funding for this park project will come from a CIT Bond, Utility Tax, and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Funds.

In FY09 the city plans to acquire ownership of the Tampa Theatre lobby and two adjacent ground level spaces in order to eliminate the existing lease payments and help protect and preserve one of the city's historic buildings. The estimated cost of this purchase will be \$2.0 million. The Tampa Theatre Foundation is assisting with the acquisition by paying various closing costs.


Construction has begun on the Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park project. This project will develop new park space adjacent to the new Tampa History Center currently under construction by Hillsborough County. A significant element of the park will be the construction of Heroes Plaza to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives in war and to law enforcement and emergency personnel who have perished in the line of duty. The city is contributing \$2.5 million with Hillsborough County contributing \$1.0 million to this project.

Significant among the City of Tampa's construction projects is the 40th Street project, funded primarily 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 (Segment B) will be complete by the end of 2008 at a cost of \$25.1 million. Over the past year a number of significant projects have been completed. Among these are: MacDill Avenue and Azele Street intersection (\$1.1 million), Woodland Terrace Community Center addition (\$780,000), Cyrus Greene Pool (\$1.2 million); and the New Tampa Community Center (\$4.7 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 city spent only \$2.59 million on these basic needs. In FY09 the program will be \$7.45 million, a significant and much needed increase.

Our capital improvement budget for FY09 reflects our commitment to you – a commitment to progress – a commitment to constantly improve the quality of life of our citizens.

Respectively Submitted,



Pam Iorio, Mayor