

CITY OF TAMPA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2007-2008  
December 12, 2007

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**Block Club:** Area VIII

**Neighborhoods:** South Westshore, Gurnsey Estates, Fairoaks/ Manhattan Manor, Bayshore Beautiful, Gandy Gardens, Gandy, Ballast Point, Interbay, Port Tampa, and Bel Mar Shores.

**Boundaries:** Euclid Avenue (north); MacDill AFB (south); Bayshore Blvd. (east); Old Tampa Bay (west).

**Contact Person:** Mr. Mark Capodilupo  
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**Need and Recommendation 1. Sidewalks/Pave road**

This request is to pave the road and add sidewalks to South Dauphin Avenue (6800 Block) dead-ending into Gadsen Park (south of West Van Buren Drive, east of Himes Avenue, and west of MacDill Avenue).

Our road is 500 linear feet in length and one of the last unpaved roads in South Tampa. Two new homes on our street had sidewalks installed when they were built in late 2005; however, the remainder of the street does not have sidewalks. Our taxes, like many other areas, have escalated dramatically over the past two years and our road has not received any improvements. During the summer months, the dust from the road kicks up onto our homes and vehicles. When it rains, the mud sticks to the car tires and vehicle exteriors and is tracked onto our driveways.

**Response:** From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. Location will be evaluated and added to the database for consideration in the FY08 construction season.

**Update:** From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. The above requested location will soon be evaluated for consideration in the FY08 season.

**Response:** From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 622-1955. The city does not have a funding source in its annual budget to upgrade

existing unimproved roadways with asphalt pavement. However, we are committed to maintaining a uniform surface free of depressions and potholes. Please contact the Customer Service Center at 622-1941 to report problems with the roadway.

**Response:** From Nina Mabileau, Planning Section, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. There are over 10 miles of unpaved/unimproved roadways in the City of Tampa. Currently, the Tampa Municipal Code allows homes to be built that will access an unpaved and platted public right-of-way, if it is being maintained by the city's Department of Public Works, Operations Division. According to Sec 27-122, access to property has to be provided safe and convenient for emergency purposes, fire protection and servicing. Sec 27-246 states that only the driveway access (apron) located in the public right-of-way is required to be paved. South Tampa is under a Transportation Concurrency Exception Area (TCEA) which does not require street improvements to be made prior to development. For more information, please call David Jennings, the Residential Development Coordinator in the Construction Service Center at 274-3100, ext. 3157.

The city understands that the residents in your area are upset with the condition of the roadway. Homeowners that purchase property on unimproved roadways should be notified that the city is not responsible for paving the road or will ever pave those roadways. The original developer on this project was Castillo Housing Corporation, 1201 Clearview Avenue North, 876-8433. Maybe they can explain what was required at the time of development.

## **Need and Recommendation 2. Playground equipment and improvements**

**Request is for improvements to Gadsden Park, 6901 South MacDill Avenue.**

**Gadsden Park is a large beautiful park located along the west side of South MacDill Avenue and north of MacDill Air force Base. Presently, the park has no swing sets, no jungle gym, nor basketball or tennis courts. Improvements have been made over the years to the track, which is wonderful, however, toddlers still have no area of their own. Additionally, the access points from the residential streets to the north of the park are grass and are not improved with pathways, which makes it difficult to access with baby strollers or persons with disabilities.**

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The swing sets were relocated to the west and included fall surfacing. There is not a toddler play unit, but we will consider upon an assessment of the park by staff. This assessment will also determine whether basketball and tennis courts are needed.

**Update:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The tot swing will be installed in FY08. A master plan needs to be developed for the large elements for the park. At this time there is no funding for a master plan.

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### Need and Recommendation 3. Intersection improvements

This request is for intersection improvements at Interbay Boulevard, West Shore Boulevard, and Commerce Street. We are requesting traffic calming devices such as speed tables or speed bumps and brighter streetlights on pedestrian-scaled poles, landscaped medians, crosswalks and anything else that will SLOW drivers down and enhance the appearance.

This intersection receives 1600+ industrial truck or fuel tanker trips per day, in addition to the local neighborhood traffic. Tanker/truck trips are 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. There have been fatalities and accidents at, and because of, this three-way intersection. Residents go as far as purchasing boulders to prevent drivers from damaging their property.

This intersection was scheduled for a roundabout for 10 years. To date, residents have yet to be informed of the much needed and well overdue improvements. Funding was pulled and the project has been canceled. To our knowledge, NOTHING is being planned to address our concerns.

**Response:** From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 931-2143. Clean City Division staff has conducted an on-site assessment, it was determined that the site locations had no opportunity for landscape improvements. The areas are either right-of-ways and/or concrete sidewalk curbing with no medians.

**Response:** From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Before consideration is given to the installation of speed tables or any other traffic calming measures on local residential streets or Neighborhood-Collector roadways, a documented speeding problem must exist. This documentation takes place once the Transportation Division staff conducts a speed study and substantiates the existence of a speeding problem. In rare circumstances, such as an intersection with a documented history of pedestrian accidents, other site specific traffic calming measures may be implemented.

Speed studies determine the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is the speed at, or below which 85% percent of the observed free-flowing vehicles travel. The Transportation Division, in cooperation with the Tampa Police Department, considers speeding to be a problem at a point in which 85% of the motorists are traveling 10 mph or more above the designated speed limit.

The City of Tampa currently has documented 154 locations city-wide with speeding problems on local residential streets, Neighborhood-Collector roadways, and the higher volume Collectors and

Arterials. Of the 154 locations, 83 of them qualify for traffic calming measures because they are classified as local residential streets or Neighborhood-Collector roadways. The remaining Collector and Arterial roads such as Interbay Boulevard, West Shore Boulevard and Commerce Street do not qualify for traffic calming and must therefore rely on traffic enforcement as provided by the Tampa Police Department. Their non-emergency contact number for traffic issues is 276-3471.

**Response:** From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. Street lighting on Interbay, Westshore, and Commerce is scheduled for upgrade within the next 12 months. Luminaries that are 50 W and 70 W will be upgraded to 100 W fixtures. Since these roadways are collectors, light spacing will be evaluated and, if necessary, additional lights will be installed.

**Update:** From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. The above scheduled upgrades are anticipated to be complete within 6 months.

**Response:** From Jim Burnside, Chief Engineer, Street Design, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The process to construct a roundabout was always considered to be marginally feasible. When the opportunity to purchase additional right-of-way was lost, the project became unfeasible and will never be constructed. At this time, the city is considering the installation of a traffic signal to replace the stop condition at Commerce. Crosswalks are to be included in this design. We are also pursuing an agreement with CSX to install a sidewalk crossing of the railroad tracks on the east side of Westshore for continuity.

**Update:** From Jim Burnside, Chief Engineer, Street Design, Transportation Division, 274-8333. An agreement with CSX has been executed and a sidewalk crossing on the east side of Westshore from Interbay to Prescott will be constructed in 2008.

#### **Need and Recommendation 4. Traffic calming devices**

**We are requesting traffic calming devices on Interbay Boulevard between Westshore Boulevard and Manhattan Avenue. We are requesting traffic calming devices such as speed tables or speed bumps and brighter streetlights on pedestrian-scaled poles, landscaped medians, crosswalks, bike lanes, and anything else that will SLOW drivers down and enhance the appearance.**

**This road receives 800+ industrial truck or fuel tanker trips per day, in addition to the local neighborhood traffic. Tanker/truck trips are 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Interbay Boulevard is a short cut for MacDill Air Force personnel, retirees, and contractors traveling from Pinellas County to the base.**

**Response:** From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 931-2143. Clean City Division will need to meet with FDOT and Parks and Recreation project planning regarding the enhancement to medians.

**Update:** From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 931-2143. There are no medians on

Interbay Boulevard between Westshore and Manhattan. A Transportation study request would need to take place for the street widening to include medians.

**Response:** From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Before consideration is given to the installation of speed tables or any other traffic calming measures on local residential streets or Neighborhood-Collector roadways, a documented speeding problem must exist. This documentation takes place once the Transportation Division staff conducts a speed study and substantiates the existence of a speeding problem. In rare circumstances, such as an intersection with a documented history of pedestrian accidents, other site specific traffic calming measures may be implemented.

Speed studies determine the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is the speed at, or below which 85% percent of the observed free-flowing vehicles travel. The Transportation Division, in cooperation with the Tampa Police Department, considers speeding to be a problem at a point in which 85% of the motorists are traveling 10 mph or more above the designated speed limit.

The City of Tampa currently has documented 154 locations city-wide with speeding problems on local residential streets, Neighborhood-Collector roadways, and the higher volume Collectors and Arterials. Of the 154 locations, 83 of them qualify for traffic calming measures because they are classified as local residential streets or Neighborhood-Collector roadways. The remaining Collector and Arterial roads such as Interbay Boulevard do not qualify for traffic calming and must therefore rely on traffic enforcement as provided by the Tampa Police Department. Their non-emergency contact number for traffic issues is 276-3471.

**Response:** From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. Street lighting on Interbay, Westshore, and Commerce is scheduled for upgrade within the next 12 months. Luminaries that are 50 W and 70 W will be upgraded to 100 W fixtures. Since these roadways are collectors, light spacing will be evaluated and, if necessary, additional lights will be installed.

**Update:** From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. The above scheduled upgrades are anticipated to be complete within 6 months.

**Response:** From Jim Burnside, Chief Engineer, Street Design, Transportation Division, 274-8333. At this time, the city is considering the installation of a traffic signal to replace the stop condition at Commerce. Crosswalks are to be included in this design.

**Update:** From Jim Burnside, Chief Engineer, Street Design, Transportation Division, 274-8333. Mike Scanlon of the Traffic Section determined that a signal at the above location does not meet warrants.

#### **Need and Recommendation 5. Traffic calming devices**

**We are requesting traffic calming devices on Commerce Street between Hoadley Street and Morton Street. We are requesting traffic calming devices such as speed tables or speed bumps and**

streetlights on pedestrian-scaled poles, landscaped medians, crosswalks, bike lanes and anything else that will SLOW drivers down and enhance the appearance.

This road receives 1600+ industrial truck or fuel tanker trips per day, in addition to the local neighborhood traffic. Tanker/truck trips are 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. There is a curve in the road and the trucks are running off the road because they are going too fast.

**Response:** From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 931-2143. Clean City Division staff has conducted an on-site assessment, it was determined that the site locations had no opportunity for landscape improvements. The areas are either right-of-ways and/or concrete sidewalk curbing with no medians.

**Response:** From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Before consideration is given to the installation of speed tables or any other traffic calming measures on local residential streets or Neighborhood-Collector roadways, a documented speeding problem must exist. This documentation takes place once the Transportation Division staff conducts a speed study and substantiates the existence of a speeding problem. In rare circumstances, such as an intersection with a documented history of pedestrian accidents, other site specific traffic calming measures may be implemented.

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The City of Tampa currently has documented 154 locations city-wide with speeding problems on local residential streets, Neighborhood-Collector roadways, and the higher volume Collectors and Arterials. Of the 154 locations, 83 of them qualify for traffic calming measures because they are classified as local residential streets or Neighborhood-Collector roadways. The remaining Collector and Arterial roads such as Commerce Street do not qualify for traffic calming and must therefore rely on traffic enforcement as provided by the Tampa Police Department. Their non-emergency contact number for traffic issues is 276-3471.

**Response:** From Major Robert J. Guidara, Police Department, 242-3899. The Police Department does not have the authority or capability to put up street lights. The department will gladly assign the district patrol squad in the listed areas to conduct periodic patrols of these alleyways at night. The officers will complete nightly activity forms to detail the activity. The police response is limited to a patrol function.

**Update:** From Major Robert J. Guidara, Police Department, 242-3899. There was an increase in alleyway patrols.

**Response:** From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. Street lighting on Interbay, Westshore, and Commerce is scheduled for upgrade within the next 12 months. Luminaries that are 50 W and 70 W will be upgraded to 100 W fixtures. Since these

roadways are collectors, light spacing will be evaluated and, if necessary, additional lights will be installed.

**Update:** From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. The above scheduled upgrades are anticipated to be complete within 6 months.

**Response:** From Jim Burnside, Chief Engineer, Street Design, Transportation Division, 274-8333. At this time, the city is considering the installation of a traffic signal to replace the stop condition at Commerce. Crosswalks are to be included in this design.

**Update:** From Jim Burnside, Chief Engineer, Street Design, Transportation Division, 274-8333. Mike Scanlon of the Traffic Section determined that a signal at the above location does not meet warrants.

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**Need and Recommendation 6.** This request is for the improvements to the South West Port Tampa Community Center, which has been renamed the Kwane Doster Community Center. This Center does not meet ADA approval standards. This center has no security updates. This building is very outdated.

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. This facility is being reviewed by Facilities Maintenance and Contract Administration to develop a plan to resolve ADA issues.

**Update:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department has been working with Contract Administration and Public Works on the ADA issues.

**Need and Recommendation 7.** This request is to have the Southwest Port Tampa Community Center building rebuilt.

- a. Rebuild to fit in with the new development within the community.
- b. The fence that surrounds this location is very rusty and the weather and the time are very much evident that it needs to be redone. This discussion came up with the City Council and the Mayor's Office at the renaming, and we all agreed that this building is outdated and in much need of redoing.

**Response to a:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Building will be reviewed by the Facilities Department to determine building needs.

**Update to a:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. A master plan needs to be developed for the park before moving forward with major elements in the park. However there is no funding for the master plan at this time.

**Response to b:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. A fencing bid has been awarded to replace the existing fence. The department anticipates the fence will be completed by late April 2007.

**Update to b:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Fencing has been installed and this project is complete.

**Need and Recommendation 8.** At Southwest Port Tampa Community Center the parking is almost null at this time. The City of Tampa Police Department has begun ticketing the members of the community that live on Morton Street due to the lack of space. This location seriously needs to be redone to fit in with the growth and development. Growth also brings children into the community, which, use this facility. It has become a serious matter of safety. Also we are in need of sidewalks for the children to use to be safe going to the park. The only place they have now is the street to walk in.

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. A small parking area is being designed in front of the community center and should be installed in the fall of 2007. The building will be reviewed by the Facilities Division to determine building needs.

**Update:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department was unable to permit the proposed parking area at the front of the building and we will work with the community to develop an alternative for parking plan.

**Need and Recommendation 9.** At Southwest Port Tampa Community Center this area has three (3) different functions going on at the park; baseball and softball field and events. Parking is a real issue since there is no adequate space for parking. Clearly, there is no posting of 'No Parking' signs and people aren't aware of the risk of getting a \$40.00 parking ticket. Seniors have to walk in the street also when there are events for them.

**Response:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department will work with the Transportation Department to determine if signage is necessary and appropriate.

**Update:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department is working with the Transportation Department to determine if signage is necessary and appropriate, and how to better provide parking.