

**CITY OF TAMPA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2004-2005  
December 28, 2004**

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**Block Club:** Area VI

**Neighborhoods:** Northeast MacFarland, Old West Tampa, and Ridgewood River.

**Boundaries:** Dr. Martin L. King Jr., Blvd. (north); I-275 (south), Florida Avenue (east); MacDill (west).

**Contact Person:** Mr. Jim Gray, LDO, Chairperson  
1938 W. Main Street  
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Phone: 253-0527 (w)

**Submitted by:** Anthony Prieto  
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**Need and Recommendation 1. Sidewalk Completion in the Ridgewood Park Community.**

- a. 700-800 Blocks of W. Amelia Avenue
- b. 700-800 Blocks of W. Frances Avenue
- c. 700-800 Blocks of W. Park Avenue
- d. 700 Block of W. Ross Avenue
- e. 2200-2500 Blocks of N. Glenwood Drive
- f. 2200-2500 Blocks of N. Ridgewood Avenue
- g. 2100-2500 Blocks of Riverside Drive

**The sidewalk system in our neighborhood is incomplete. Many of the homes and lots do not have sidewalks. The lack of a complete system causes pedestrians to have to walk on the busy streets in the neighborhood. The neighborhood would benefit greatly from the completion of the sidewalks. The safety of the residents would be improved. The character and integrity of the neighborhood would be enhanced.**

**Response to all:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. The policy of the Sidewalk Program is to give priority to areas that have no sidewalk in place over those that have sidewalk on at least one side of the road. This

policy allows more roadways in the City to accommodate pedestrian traffic.

Please note that it would not be logical to install sidewalk at the lower traffic volume areas prior to sidewalk installation at the higher traffic locations, as they would not tie into any existing walks. If you have any questions feel free to call me at 635-3421.

**Response to a.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Amelia has some existing sidewalk on each side. Approximately two more blocks of sidewalk would be required to complete sidewalk along one side of the street. Construction would present few problems, however traffic volume is low.

**Update to a.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Amelia-Ridgewood to N. Boulevard has been added to our updated consideration for future construction list.

**Response to b.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. New sidewalk is not recommended for Frances Avenue as sidewalk already exists along the north side of the street.

**Update to b.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Frances Avenue – Ridgewood to N. Boulevard has sidewalk along one side and will be added to our updated consideration for future construction list.

**Response to c.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. It would require approximately 1.5 blocks of new sidewalk to complete sidewalk along the north side of the street. Sidewalk installation presents no unusual problems. However, new sidewalk is not necessarily recommended at this location, as there is a low traffic volume.

**Update to c.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Park Avenue –Ridgewood to N. Boulevard has been added to our updated consideration for future construction list.

**Response to d.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Sidewalk is existing along the south side of the 700 block of Ross Avenue. However, sidewalk installation along the north side of the street presents few problems and may be advisable, as there appears to be reasonably high traffic volume and speed at this location.

**Update to d.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Ross Avenue-Ridgewood to N. Boulevard has been added to our updated consideration for future construction list.

**Response to e.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Although there is not a high traffic volume at this location, the installation of sidewalk along the east side of this street would prove to be very convenient for the neighborhood.

**Update to e.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Glenwood Drive-Ross to Columbus new sidewalk was constructed this October under the current contract.

**Response to f.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Sidewalk is existing along the entire west side and parts of the east side of the street. It is recommended that the east side sidewalk be completed as this street has reasonably high traffic volume and needs. This would require about 2.25 blocks of new sidewalk.

**Update to f.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Ridgewood Avenue-Ross to Columbus has been added to our updated consideration for future construction list.

**Response to g.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Sidewalk exists along about 40% of the east side of the street. There is a low traffic volume and a residential survey must be completed before a new sidewalk is constructed.

**Update to g.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Riverside Drive-Ross to Columbus has been added to our updated consideration for future construction list.

**Update in general:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Glenwood Drive has been constructed and all of the remaining locations are added to the updated consideration for future construction list.

**Need and Recommendation 3. Traffic Calming Devices are Needed in the Following Blocks.**

- a. 700-800 Blocks of W. Amelia Avenue
- b. 700-800 Blocks of W. Frances Avenue
- c. 700-800 Blocks of W. Park Avenue
- d. 700 Block of W. Ross Avenue
- e. 2200-2500 Blocks of N. Glenwood Drive
- f. 2200-2500 Blocks of N. Ridgewood Avenue
- g. 2100-2500 Blocks of Riverside Drive

**The neighborhood has an extremely bad problem with speeders. The major intersection at West Columbus Drive and North Boulevard has caused many drivers to cut through the various roads in the neighborhood. This shortcut for the drivers has meant great danger for our residents. We**

have had a traffic calming study completed that showed the speeding problems. We are in the process of having another one completed. We have voiced our complaints to the Police Department. The Police Department has patrolled the area and issued multiple tickets. However, the problem still exists. The neighborhood has strong feelings that traffic calming devices throughout the neighborhood would greatly reduce this problem.

**Response:** From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. Of the seven locations requested, only N. Ridgewood Avenue has a documented speeding problem and is listed on the Speeding Location List (SLL). Currently, N. Ridgewood Avenue between W. Ross Avenue and W. Columbus Avenue is ranked 120 out of 159 local residential and Neighborhood Collector streets with a documented speeding problem.

We are currently working to resolve the documented speeding problems in the order of severity (worst case first). When we reach N. Ridgewood Avenue on the SLL, we will work with the affected property owners and their neighbors to find the best solution to address the speeding problem.

Meanwhile, six speed studies will be requested on your behalf at the following locations:

1. W. Amelia Avenue between Glenwood and Ridgewood
2. W. Frances Avenue between Glenwood and Ridgewood
3. W. Park Avenue between Boulevard and Glenwood
4. W. Ross Avenue between Boulevard and Glenwood
5. W. Glenwood Drive between Francis and Amelia
6. Riverside Drive between Park and Francis

The estimated time of completion for each location is approximately 12 weeks. After the speed studies are completed, our finding will be reviewed and shared with you. If you have not received an update on the speed studies after this 12-week period, please contact the Traffic Analysis Section at 274-8333.

Before consideration is given to the installation of speed tables or any other traffic calming measures, 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% of the observed free-flowing vehicles travel. The Transportation Division, in cooperation with the Tampa Police Department, considers speeding excessive at a point in which 85% of the motorists are traveling 10 mph or more above the designated speed limit.

The City of Tampa has documented over 220 locations Citywide with speeding problems. Of the 220 locations, 159 of them qualify for traffic calming measures because they are classified as local residential or Neighborhood Collector roadways.

As each new speeding location is documented, they are added to the Speeding Location List (SLL). This list contains all of the locations in the City of Tampa that have documented speeding problems. The SLL is a prioritization tool and a prerequisite prior to considering a location for traffic calming measures. The SLL ranks speeding locations by the greatest differential between the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed and the designated speed limit. This sorting ranks the worst speeding locations first. Additionally, rankings will change when each new speeding location is documented.

**Update:** From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. As requested, 24-hour machine counts were performed on March 31, 2004 at the following six locations:

1. W. Amelia Avenue between Glenwood and Ridgewood, 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 29-mph in a 30-mph speed zone with a daily vehicular volume of 330.
2. W. Frances Avenue between Glenwood and Ridgewood, 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 31-mph in a 30-mph speed zone with a daily vehicular volume of 236.
3. W. Park Avenue between Boulevard and Glenwood, 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 30-mph in a 30-mph speed zone with a daily vehicular volume of 290.
4. W. Ross Avenue between Boulevard and Glenwood, 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 35-mph in a 30-mph speed zone with a daily vehicular volume of 1916.
5. N. Glenwood Drive between Francis and Amelia, 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 22-mph in a 30-mph speed zone with a daily vehicular volume of 146.
6. N. Ridgewood Avenue between Park and Francis, 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 39-mph in a 25-mph speed zone with a daily vehicular volume of 1979.

**Note:** A mix-up occurred and the Speed Study on Riverside Drive between Park and Frances was inadvertently missed and has been rescheduled to be done in 30-45 days.

Based on the results of these studies: W. Amelia Avenue between Glenwood and Ridgewood; W. Frances Avenue between Glenwood and Ridgewood; W. Park Avenue between Boulevard and Glenwood; W. Ross Avenue between Boulevard and Glenwood; and N. Glenwood Drive between Frances and Amelia, do not appear to be experiencing speeding problems. However, N. Ridgewood Avenue does appear to be experiencing a speeding problem. N. Ridgewood Avenue was previously on the Speeding Location List (SLL) and has been updated.

The City of Tampa has documented over 230 locations Citywide with speeding problems. Of the 230 locations, 160 of them qualify for traffic calming measures because they are classified as local residential or Neighborhood Collector roadways.

We are currently working to resolve the documented speeding problems in the order of severity (worst case first). When we reach N. Ridgewood Avenue on the SLL, we will work with the

affected property owners and their neighbors to find the best solution to address the speeding problem.

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#### **Need and Recommendation 5. Eligibility and Funding Change to CDBG City of Tampa Vision & Dental Guidelines.**

On July 1, 2003, the State of Florida eliminated vision services to Medicaid recipients who are over the age of 21. This resulted in an increase in the number of city residents requesting vision services. This change will require an additional allocation of funds to cover at least 500 citizens: \$100 per person would amount to \$50,000.

The City of Tampa's Dental & Vision program guidelines need to be reviewed and adjusted to serve the needy residents of our community. Many of our citizens fall between the cracks, with respect to the City versus the County's guidelines. The City does not serve clients that meet the County's monetary guideline, even though they are still within the Federal guidelines. Citizens are referred to the County, where many do not qualify, due to not being able to meet the County's additional criteria.

**Response:** From Jim Stefan, Budget Officer, Department of Revenue and Finance, 274-8111. The City received a Request For Proposal (RFP) from Hillsborough County Health Department for the Vision Program. Additional funding for the program will be considered through the RFP process.

**Update:** From Jim Stefan, Budget Officer, Department of Revenue and Finance, 274-8111. The program was awarded \$14,490 for FY04-05. Due to a reduction in funding from HUD and following the new Request for Proposal process established by the City, grading and funding limits would not allow additional funding for this program. The Budget Office is reviewing possible solutions for vision services to Medicaid recipients.

#### **Need and Recommendation 6. Request for Funding – Census Tracts 1-60.**

The Fatherhood, Assistance, Lifestyle, Legal referral Service, Inc. (F.A.L.L.S.) faith-based organization is requesting a \$15,000 contribution. The contribution will enable efforts to help non-custodial, custodial fathers and their children, to give them hope and break the patterns of family violence, absenteeism, poverty, illiteracy, homelessness and hopelessness.

Utilizing experts from private consultants to public service agents, we assist one to three families and eight to twelve individual participants monthly, which is all that our current resources will

allow. Services are free of charge to all residents of the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County. Your contribution will enable us to enhance and further our programs of:

- a. Public awareness via newspaper and radio.
- b. Domestic violence education/prevention.
- c. Parenting/effective communication skills.
- d. Legal referral-child support/custody/visitation.
- e. GED prep classes.

Our most recent Community Health Fair and Family Festival (12/7/02) at River Front Park, boasts attendance of more than 100 participants, local vendors and volunteers. The F.A.L.L.S. is currently looking at other beneficial program venues. As you are aware, the need is great and it is real. When children have both parents actively involved in their upbringing, they perform better in school, have higher self-esteem and are less likely to become involved with the legal system negatively.

**Response:** From Jim Stefan, Budget Officer, Department of Revenue and Finance, 274-8111. The City sent a Request For Proposal (RFP) to Mr. Gray. Mr. Gray did not return the application due to needing technical assistance. Mr. Gray stated he would submit a request for Fiscal Year 2006.

**Update:** From Jim Stefan, Budget Officer, Department of Revenue and Finance, 274-8111. Applicants will be provided technical assistance for Fiscal Year 2006 Community Development Block Grant. Date for technical assistance workshop will be provide at a later time.

**Need and Recommendation 8. Have Businesses on W. Main Street Comply with Current Store Front Lighting and Facades Codes.**

**Response:** From William Doherty, Deputy Director, Department of Code Enforcement, 274-5562. The Code Enforcement Department will assist with assuring that the businesses on W. Main Street comply with building façade codes.

**Response:** From Stuart Campbell, Urban Planner, Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD), 274-8228. The City of Tampa annually allocates CDBG funds for a façade improvement program targeting West Tampa. The façade improvement program is administered by a non-profit organization. The following is a brief description of the parameters of the program:

In conjunction with the Business and Housing Development (“BHD”) and the Division of Housing and Community Development (“HCD”), the Non-profit organization shall perform the following services related to the Façade Improvement Program:

1. Outreach: The Non-profit organization will promote the program in the service area comprising, a) the corridor on Howard Avenue from I-275 (Laurel St.) to Columbus Avenue, and b) Main Street from Fremont Avenue to Armenia Avenue. Methods of outreach may include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- (a) Distributing flyers and/or brochures in the service area announcing and describing the availability of the program.
- (b) Announcing the availability of the program in any special TV or radio segments (PSAs) of the Non-profit organization.
- (c) Utilizing direct mail, telephone calls or e-mails to contact building owners in the service area.
- (d) Including program information in any relevant newsletter published by the Non-profit organization.
- (e) Utilizing PSAs in the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce Newsletter.
- (f) Conducting information meetings at the offices of the Caldeco Mechanical Corp. at 1721 North Howard Avenue.
- (g) Visiting potentially qualified building owners directly.

The purpose of the façade program is to improve the front elevations of commercial buildings in an effort to enhance the economic viability of the service area.

- 2. Intake and Counseling: Applications for funding assistance will be distributed at informational meetings and to potential applicants who contact the Non-profit organization as a result of outreach. The Non-profit organization shall explain program guidelines and eligibility criteria as part of its counseling effort.
- 3. Evaluation Criteria and Guidelines: In evaluating applications for funding assistance, the Non-profit organization shall review and document its assessment of the following.

Structure will be evaluated for:

- (a) Historical and/or cultural significance.
- (b) Location.
- (c) Architectural significance and uniqueness, e.g., distinctive features of type, method of construction, artistic value, architectural character, etc.
- (d) Aspects of building preservation – measures to maintain and sustain the existing material, integrity and form of building, including structure.
- (e) Condition of building – extent of façade disrepair, decay and/or deterioration; structural integrity and soundness.
- (f) Historical/architectural appropriateness of suggested façade improvements, including a cost/benefit analysis detailing the anticipated extent to which the available Grant Funds would make a significant improvement to the building and a positive economic impact to the area community.

The Owner will be evaluated for:

- (a) Willingness to contribute an Owner Match Contribution (“Match”) toward the completion of the façade improvement. The absence of a Match will not necessarily disqualify the Owner from consideration.

- (b) The Owner must expend the Match, if any, prior to the expenditure of Grant Funds.
- (c) Property taxes and insurance applicable to the structure must be current.
- (d) There shall be no liens currently against the structure.
- (e) Preference will be given to occupied buildings. Unoccupied buildings will be given consideration upon compelling evidence that Grant Funds would make the building highly marketable for occupancy.

#### 4. Selection procedures

The Non-profit organization shall contact the Assistant Manager of HCD (or designee) to arrange a meeting with the selection committee to review funding recommendations.

The Non-profit organization shall present a written recommendation and an oral organization believes should be considered for Grant Funds. The written and oral presentations shall address each of the applicable items listed in "3" above. The written presentation to a selection committee regarding each property that the Non-profit recommendation package shall be submitted to the Assistant Manager (or designee) no less than five (5) business days prior to the scheduled oral presentation.

The City shall have five (5) business days following the oral presentation to make a funding decision, except in cases where the City requests further information from the Non-profit organization. In such cases the City shall an additional five (5) business days to make a funding decision.

Funding decision shall be made by majority vote, and shall be based on the extent to which the proposal meets the objectives of the program.

Upon notification of funding approval from the City, the Non-profit organization shall submit to the Assistant Manger of HCD a service description of the funding project. At minimum, the service description shall include the Owner's name, his/her daytime telephone number, project address, anticipated project start date, the amount of Grant Funds to be made available, a construction timeline and the procedures to be followed for securing and expending the Match, if any, prior to the expenditure of Grant Funds.

Façade improvements must be completed within nine (9) months of approval. One extension for an additional three (3) months may be granted at the discretion of the Assistant Manger of HCD upon written request by the Non-profit organization. The written request must describe the extenuating circumstances necessitating the extension.

The Non-profit organization shall perform site visits at each business location assisted with Grant Funds at its own discretion and as often as may be requested by the City to ensure compliance with this Agreement and the individual service agreement.

**Update:** From Stuart Campbell, Urban Planner, Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD), 274-8228. The City of Tampa has allocated in the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget \$100,000 of CDBG funds for a façade improvement program targeting West Tampa. The City of Tampa is in the process of writing a Request For Proposal to solicit qualified non-profit organizations that can administer the program.

**Need and Recommendation 9. Provide Business Micro Loans from \$2,000-\$20,000 for West Tampa Small Business Owners Using Blue Ribbon Model Created by EC/EZ Board to be Managed by The West Tampa CDC.**

**Small businesses need assistance with equipment and renovation of stores. Loans would increase profit and improve community economics.**

**Response:** From Stuart Campbell, Urban Planner, Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD), 274-8228. The city does not make direct loans to small business. There is no city financial assistance for equipment. Rather, the city funds a façade improvement program implemented by a non-profit organization. Currently, they can contact Hispanic Business Initiative Fund, 1101 Channelside Drive, World Trade Center, Suite 238, Tampa, FL 33602 or call them at 864-6517. Please see the above description for program details.

**Update:** From Stuart Campbell, Urban Planner, Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD), 274-8228. The city has allocated \$100,000 in this year's CDBG budget for the Façade Improvement Program. The city did not designate a specific non-profit organization to administer. Rather, the city decided that none of the non-profit applications submitted during the initial CDBG Request for Qualification (RFQ) met the city's standard to administer this program. The city has now issued specific RFQ for the Façade Improvement Program and responses are due by 12/10/04. The city will be selecting a non-profit to administer the façade program by the end of the year.

**Need and Recommendation 10. Street Resurfacing in West Tampa.**

- a. **W. Spruce Street – between N. Armenia Avenue and N. Boulevard.**
- b. **N. Habana Avenue – between W. Main Street and W. Tampa Bay Boulevard.**

**Traffic from school buses, pedestrians, and autos have caused deterioration. Potholes are repaired (filled), however, when it rains, hole opens.**

**Response:** From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Department of Public Works, Operations Division, 622-1955. Spruce Street is presently being paved from Habana to Oregon, Spruce has been vacated east of Oregon. North Habana is mainly vitrified brick between Green Street and St. Joseph; there is continuing maintenance program as funds allow. Asphalt surface from St. Joseph to Columbus Drive is in good condition. Habana from Columbus to Tampa Bay Boulevard has been placed on a clearance list for future paving.

**Update:** From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Department of Public Works, Operations Division, 622-1955. The paving of Spruce Street from Habana to Oregon is complete.

**Need and Recommendation 11. Continuation of Sidewalks and Street Repair.**

- a. **W. Union Street – between N. Armenia Avenue and N. Rome Avenue**
- b. **W. Spruce Street – between N. Armenia Avenue and N. Rome Avenue**
- c. **W. Chestnut Street – between N. Armenia Avenue and N. Rome Avenue**
- d. **W. Walnut Street – between N. Armenia and N. Rome Avenue**

**Sidewalks are broken and are not continuous. School children and pedestrians are forced to walk in the street.**

**Response to a.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Only about .5 block of new sidewalk would be required to complete sidewalks along both sides of this location and is recommended.

**Update to a.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Union Street from Armenia to Rome is scheduled to be constructed in late November under the current contract.

**Response to b.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. This would require approximately 2 blocks of new sidewalk and is recommended.

**Update to b.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Spruce Street from Armenia to Rome is scheduled to be constructed in late November under the current contract.

**Response to c.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. This would require approximately 1.75 blocks of new sidewalk and is recommended.

**Update to c.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Chestnut Street from Armenia to Rome is scheduled to be constructed in late November under the current contract.

**Response to d.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. This would require only .5 block of new sidewalk and is recommended. The completion of these areas would provide near complete sidewalk coverage along both sides of the street in the entire neighborhood.

**Update to d.:** From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3421. Walnut Street from Armenia to Rome is tentatively scheduled to be constructed

in late November or early December contingent upon the remaining funding in the current contract. If sidewalk at this location is not completed, it will be added to our updated consideration for future construction list.

**Response to Street Repair:** From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Department of Public Works, Operations Division, 622-1955. Union Street is presently being paved between Habana and Armenia. Union between Armenia and Rome is vitrified brick with a good ride quality. Chestnut Street is being paved on our current program from Armenia to Rome. Walnut Street is being paved between Habana and Armenia and between Albany to Rome on our current program. Segments between Armenia and Albany are vitrified brick with a good ride quality. Spruce Street from Oregon to N. Boulevard has been vacated, we do not maintain vacated streets.

**Update to Street Repair:** From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Department of Public Works, Operations Division, 622-1955. The paving of Union Street from Habana to Armenia, Chestnut Street from Armenia to Rome, Walnut Street from Habana to Armenia, and Walnut Street from Albany to Rome are all complete.