

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

Block Club: Area I

Neighborhoods: Florence Villa, Beasley, Grant Park, Oak Park, Northview Hills, Galloway Heights, Northeast Community, and Highland Pines.

Boundaries: Hillsborough River (north); Tampa By-Pass Canal (south); Tampa By-Pass Canal (east); 40th Street (west).

Contact Person: Ms. Rosalie Jones, Chairperson
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Submitted by: Ms. Valerie Washington
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Need and Recommendation 1. Cleaning of Roadway Maintenance Ditch and Drainage Canal.

Ditch and canal are located at E. Broadway and N. 56th Street. We request this to be done before the rainy season begins.

Response: From Alexander P. Awad, Manager, Development and Consumer Affairs, Stormwater Department, 274-8771. Hillsborough County maintains the ditch on Broadway Avenue. The Stormwater Maintenance Division contacted the County and requested they look into the maintenance issues with the ditch.

The ditch on 56th Street is blocked by construction of a sidewalk. The Stormwater Maintenance Division will reestablish the ditch and construct a pipe under the sidewalk to facilitate drainage flow in the ditch system.

Update: From Alexander P. Awad, Manager, Development and Consumer Affairs, Stormwater Department, 274-8771. Hillsborough County has regraded the ditch along E. Broadway. The Maintenance Division has reestablished the portion of the system within the City limits and a pipe constructed under the sidewalk to facilitate drainage flow in the ditch system.

Need and Recommendation 2. Mowing, Trimming, and Tree Removal on N. 56th Street.

Mowing, trimming, and tree removal requested at the following locations:

- a. E. Columbus Drive and N. 56th Street**
- b. E. 21st Avenue and N. 56th Street**

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The Parks and Recreation Department will work with the Code Enforcement Division to resolve this problem.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The specific locations were provided to Code Enforcement for resolution.

Need and Recommendation 3. Relocation of Crossing Signs and Warning Lights.

Oak Park Elementary School was relocated; however, the existing traffic signals and school crossing signs are still at the old location on N. 50th Street and E. 10th Avenue. We request that the school crossing signs and warning lights be relocated to the proximity of the school's new location, at E. Columbus Drive and N. 53rd Street and N. 54th Street. In addition, we request that safety signs and lights be placed along E. 15th Avenue for the safety of the children's pickup (between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and drop-off time from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.).

Response: From Ron Phillips, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-83233. The original location of Oak Park Elementary School at 50th Street and 10th Avenue was closed last year. However, the students were relocated to a new facility on Ellicott Street and 43rd Street, and not on Columbus Drive between 53rd Street and 54th Street as indicated.

After the school was closed, the city removed the traffic signal from the old location at the direction of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). However, the School Crossing signs, markings and School Zone Speed Limit signs were left in place on 50th Street. Because 50th Street is under the jurisdiction of the FDOT, the removal of the signs and markings is their responsibility. The Transportation Division has informed the FDOT that the signs and markings are no longer needed, and requested that they take appropriate action to have them removed.

Please be advised that there is no school located on Columbus Drive between 53rd Street and 54th Street, nor have we been given any indication by the Hillsborough School District that one is proposed. Therefore, installation of the above referenced signs on Columbus Drive and 15th Avenue, as suggested, is not warranted at this time. The city gives the highest priority to improvements which enhance the safety of our school children. To this end, we work with the Hillsborough School District Safety Office to establish policy and identify needed improvements near our schools.

Update: From Ron Phillips, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8323. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has removed the signs on 50th Street. No school signs are necessary at this time. All students attending the school at its new location are bused to school. No students walk to school, therefore, there is no need for school crossing signs.

Need and Recommendation 4. Removal of inoperable vehicles and boats along the roadside. There are several inoperative vehicles and boats on E. Columbus Dr. and N. 56th Street.

Response: From Bill Doherty, Deputy Director, Department of Code Enforcement, 274-5562. The Code Enforcement Department is committed to removing inoperative vehicles and boats on E. Columbus and within the city limits along N. 56th Street. The Code Enforcement Department will issue the appropriate Code Violation Notice when it discovers inoperable vehicles and boats on E. Columbus and within the city limits along N. 56th Street. The Department will impound these vehicles if the owners fail to comply with the Notices of Violation.

Response: From Ann Andrews, Planning Research Analyst, Planning Research Analyst, Tampa Police Department (TPD), 276-3755. This has been referred to District III for investigation. Each District has a team of crime prevention personnel who are in the communities looking for problems and issues. They are proactive and have been instrumental in removing abandoned vehicles in concerted effort with code enforcement.

Update: From Ann Andrews, Tampa Police Department, 276-3755. Tampa Police Department's District III Crime Prevention Personnel investigated this complaint and contacted the owner of the vehicles, who removed the vehicles.

Need and Recommendation 5. Mowing and Properly Installed Fence around Commercial Lot to Keep out the Unsanitary Conditions and Illegal Activity.

Located at the intersection of N. 50th Street and E. 14th Avenue.

Response: From Bill Doherty, Deputy Director, Department of Code Enforcement, 274-5562. The Code Enforcement Department will investigate the intersection of N. 50th Street and E. 14th Avenue to ensure there are no unsanitary conditions and illegal activity around the commercial lots located there.

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. From investigating the property, it appears the property is under private ownership or other government ownership. On northeast corner the ownership is FDOT; on the southeast corner Columbus Bus Plaza the ownership is Fee Associates LP; on the southwest corner is a Hillsborough County School Building, and on northwest corner FDOT, United Petroleum, Inc. The Parks and Recreation Department will refer this information over to the Code Enforcement Division and will assist them in any way possible. An updated response will be provided.

Update: From Bill Doherty, Deputy Director, Department of Code Enforcement, 274-5562. The Code Enforcement Department has investigated this area and will continue to monitor the site. However, there is a major on-going Department of Transportation road project there that will impact the neighborhood until it's completion.

Need and Recommendation 7. Clean Culverts (drainage ditches) of Debris.

Entire community needs this problem addressed. Rain causes street flooding. We would like these ditches cleaned on an annual basis.

Response: From Alexander P. Awad, Manager, Development and Consumer Affairs, Stormwater Department, 274-8771. The Stormwater Maintenance Division investigated the area in question and is in the process of maintaining the existing ditches. If you observe a clogged inlet or a ditch system that needs maintenance, please call the Stormwater Maintenance Division at 622-1901.

Need and Recommendation 8. Install and Upgrade Lighting Throughout the Community.

Response: From Calvin Thornton, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Planning, 274-8333. The phasing of the City of Tampa Street Lighting Initiative installations is based on production estimates provided by Tampa Electric Company (TECO). The current production estimate is 250 installations per month. As of 4/08/04, TECO has installed 2,111 streetlights in Phases I and II. Phase I is complete with Phase II anticipated to be complete by July of 2004. The basis of phasing is by grouping Tampa Police Department patrol grids (Attachment C). This makes it difficult to depict completions by neighborhoods as patrol grids only approximate neighborhood boundaries. A map depicting phasing and neighborhood boundaries will be mailed to all Block Club Captains. The phasing map will also be posted on our Web Site in the very near future (www.tampagov.net/dept_Public_Works/transportation). Please contact Terry Wermuth at 274-8007 with your street lighting concerns, and notify TECO at 228-0800 with your street lighting maintenance needs.

Update: From Ann Andrews, Tampa Police Department, 276-3755. TECO has installed 3,005 streetlights as of October 2004. Phase I is complete and Phase II is expected to be completed by December 2004. Phase II is behind schedule due to the hurricanes this summer.

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Need and Recommendation 10. Improve Lighting in Northview Hills Subdivision.

Northview Hills Subdivision West of 40th Street, East on 50th Street, South on Chelsea, and

North on E. Osborne Avenue. Some of the things discussed contained in TECO's proposal:

- a. There are thirty-nine (39) existing lights. Propose to upgrade all thirty-nine (39).
- b. Add three (3) new poles (one in the middle of E. Cayuga, one at Atwood and Ashmore Drive, and one at N. 48th Street and Ashmore Drive).
- c. Four (4) lights should be added to the existing poles on John Bell Drive.
- d. Four (4) lights should be added to the existing poles on Atwater.
- e. Two (2) lights should be added to the existing poles on E. Curtis and N. 48th Street. Visibility of the stop sign is bad in the evenings.
- f. Add one (1) existing pole in cul-de-sac on Ashmore Drive.
- g. Add seven (7) lights to existing poles on Ashmore Drive.
- h. Add another thirty-seven (37) lights on existing poles as the TECO study suggested.

Response to a.-h.: From Calvin Thornton, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Planning, 274-8333. The Northview Hills Subdivision has been completed for the improved street lighting. The specific locations as discussed with Rosalie Jones by phone are currently being addressed. Please contact Terry Wermuth at 274-8007 with your street lighting concerns, and notify Tampa Electric Company (TECO) at 228-0800 with your street lighting maintenance needs.

Update: From Ann Andrews, Tampa Police Department, 276-3755. TECO has installed 3,005 streetlights as of October 2004. Phase I is complete and Phase II is expected to be completed by December 2004. Phase II is behind schedule due to the hurricanes this summer.

Need and Recommendation 11. Speed Limit Signs Requested on John Bell Drive.

Need speed limit signs on John Bell Drive (North) and E. Curtis Street (East).

Response: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. On November 20, 2003, Transportation Division conducted Traffic Studies at the following locations:

1. East Osborne Avenue west of Ashland Drive between 7:30 AM and 8:30 AM, a total of 74 vehicles were observed. The 85% was 37 mph or less in a 30 mph zone.
2. North John Bell Drive between East Cayuga Street and East Chelsea Street between 4:30 PM and 5:30 PM, a total of 33 vehicles were observed. The 85% were 32 mph or less in a 30 mph zone.
3. East Curtis Avenue between North John Bell Drive and Ashland Drive between 7:30 AM and 8:30 AM, a total of 35 vehicles were observed. The 85% were 37 mph or less in a 30 mph zone.
4. North Ashland Drive between East Osborne and East Ashmore Drive between 4:30 PM and 5:30 PM, a total of 31 vehicles were observed. The 85% were 28 mph or less in a 30 mph zone.

The 85th percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85% percent of the observed free-flowing vehicles travels. 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 above the speed limit.

Based on the results of these 4 studies, these streets do not have an excessive speeding problem.

The Transportation Division considers traffic studies valid for a one year period. However, if there were any other streets not listed above, the Transportation Division would be pleased to study those upon request. For informational purposes, note that the Transportation Division was already approached by and engaged with the Northview Hills Subdivision to install traffic control devices to control perceived traffic problems.

Because Ms. Rosalie Jones original request was for speed limit signs on John Bell Drive (north) and E. Curtis Street (east), Transportation will create work orders to install 30 mph speed limit signs, one at each of the two requested locations.

Update: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Traffic Analysis Section, 274-8333. The City installed the 30-mph speed limit signs on John Bell drive and E. Curtis in late June 2004.