

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

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
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Phone: 253-0527 (w)

Submitted by: Anthony Prieto
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Need and Recommendation 2. Enhanced Neighborhood Street Lighting.

- 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. 2200-2500 Blocks of Riverside Drive

The neighborhood is in drastic need of additional street lighting. Additional lighting would make a positive impact on the safety of our area. The lighting now is almost non-existent on most streets. It is dangerous to drive and walk in the evening hours under the current conditions. The additional lighting would help reduce crimes that often occur after dark. Residents would feel safer and be able to walk in the neighborhood in the evening hours.

Response: From Calvin Thornton, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. As of 4/08/04, Tampa Electric Company (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 provided to all Block Club Captions. The phasing map will also be posted on our Web Site in the very near future (www.tampagov.net/dept_Public_Works/transportation). The specific locations are currently being addressed. 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.

Need and Recommendation 4. Green Space Improvement on N. Glenwood Drive, Between the 2200 and 2500 Blocks in the Middle/Common Area.

The common green space starting at the 2200 through 2500 blocks of N. Glenwood Drive is in need of lighting, tree trimming, curbing, benches, etc. These green spaces were once a small inlet of the Hillsborough River. The river flowed from its main body through the Ridgewood Park community and under W. Columbus Drive. The small body of water was once bordered on both sides by Glenwood Drive. Today is a vast green space, which has not been used effectively.

The space is separated into four blocks of long fields. Residents do not use the area because of its lack of appeal. The possibilities for open space are endless. The land needs to be improved.

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The department currently has this property on its inventory and will work with the planning division to explore possible improvements within this area. The department does not foresee the installation of lighting in this area and will investigate the need of benches.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Parks and Recreation is working with our Planning Division in the placement of benches and trash receptacles in this area. This project should be complete by April 2005.

Need and Recommendation 7. Upgrade Lighting on W. Main Street, between N. Armenia and N. Rome Avenues.

Streets are dark for pedestrians. This would help prevent crime.

Response: From Calvin Thornton, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The specific location is 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 Calvin Thornton, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. Lighting on Main Street between Armenia and Rome will be upgraded to 400 watt pressure sodium in 3-6 months contingent upon the return of TECO forces to a normal workload which was interrupted by the hurricanes.

Submitted by: Harriet McCray
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274-8862, Ext. 1005 (w)
274-8927 (fax)

Need and Recommendation 12. Traffic Study and Traffic Lights.

- a. Traffic study requested for the 1800 and 1900 Blocks.
- b. Pedestrian traffic light requested at the 1800-1900 Block of W. Spruce Street, off N. Howard Avenue.
- c. Traffic calming device – I-275 north up to Columbus Drive on Howard Avenue.
- d. Traffic study and traffic light – 2200 Block of N. Armenia Avenue.
- e. Traffic light at 2301 N. Howard Avenue, Rey park location, to replace the existing pedestrian crosswalk. This light is needed as soon as possible, as the Tampa-Hillsborough Urban League will be hosting classes there in the near future.

Response to a.: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. I will have a staff member contact Ms. Harriet McCray directly to request the required Street Name in question and any other missing information needed to perform the requested “traffic study at 1800 and 1900 Blocks”.

In the future, when either forwarding or referring requests to the Transportation Division please obtain the on street name and two adjacent cross street names or provide a physical address. This information must be contained in the request for any action to be taken.

Update to a.: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The Transportation Division contacted Harriet McCray concerning a traffic study request on the 1800 and 1900 block of an unknown street. Ms. McCray requested a 24-hour machine count on 1800-1900 block of N. Howard Avenue between Walnut and Pine. The machine count was performed June 9, 2004 with an 85th percentile speed of 35-mph in a 30-mph speed zone. The 85th percentile 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.

Based on the results of this study, 1800-1900 block of N. Howard Avenue between Walnut and Pine does not appear to be experiencing a speeding problem.

Response to b.: From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8105. We conducted a study at this location and found that there is no basis for installing a pedestrian signal. Pedestrian volumes for a 14 hour period totaled only 47 north-south pedestrians.

Response to c.: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 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.

Because Howard Avenue is not listed on the SLL, a speed study has been requested on your behalf and the estimated time of completion is approximately 12 weeks. After the speed study is completed, our finding will be shared with you. If a speed problem is discovered, this will be shared with the Traffic Unit at TPD. If you have not received an update on the speed study after this 12-week period, please contact us at 274-8333.

Speed studies determine the 85th percentile speed. The 85th 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 excessive at a point in which 85% of the motorists are traveling 10 mph or more above the designated speed limit.

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 85th 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.

The City of Tampa has documented over 226 locations citywide with speeding problems. Of the 226 locations, 157 of them qualify for traffic calming measures because they are classified as local residential or Neighborhood Collector roadways. Howard Avenue is a collector road and therefore does not qualify for traffic calming. Collector roads must rely on traffic enforcement provided by the Tampa Police Department (TPD).

Update to c.: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. A 24-hour machine count was performed June 9, 2004 on N. Howard Avenue

between Main and Columbus for northbound traffic. The resulting 85th percentile speed was 35-mph in a 30-mph speed zone with a daily vehicular volume of 12,032. The 85th 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.

Based on the results of this study, N. Howard Avenue between Main and Columbus does not appear to be experiencing a speeding problem.

Response to d.: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. Armenia Avenue is a collector road and therefore does not qualify for traffic calming. Collector roads must rely on traffic enforcement provided by the Tampa Police Department (TPD). Because Armenia Avenue is not listed on the SLL, a speed study has been requested on your behalf and the estimated time of completion is approximately 12 weeks. After the speed study is completed, our findings will be shared with you. If a speed problem is discovered, this will be shared with the Traffic Unit at TPD. If you have not received an update on the speed study after this 12-week period, please contact us at 274-8333.

Update to d.: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. A 24-hour machine count was performed June 9, 2004 on N. Armenia Avenue between Main and Columbus for southbound traffic. The resulting 85th percentile speed was 42-mph in a 40-mph speed zone with a daily vehicular volume of 12,062. The 85th 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 excessive at a point in which 85% of the motorists are traveling 10-mph or more above the designated speed limit.

Based on the results of this study, N. Armenia Avenue between Main and Columbus does not appear to be experiencing a speeding problem.

Response to e.: From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8105. We conducted a study at this location and found that there is very little pedestrian traffic at this location. It did not meet the volume threshold to warrant a signal. A warrant requires 150 pedestrians per hour. This location had a 14 hour period total of only 26 east-west pedestrians. Once the Tampa-Hillsborough Urban League starts classes this location can be reviewed again.

Need and Recommendation 13. Fund a Fully Staffed Cleaning Maintenance.

The neighborhood is in great need of a fully staffed cleaning maintenance crew, similar to the one by the N.E.A.T. program. The boundaries for the maintenance crew to work is as follows:

(S) I-275
(N) W. Columbus Drive
(W) N. Armenia Avenue
(E) N. Rome Avenue

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The department does not have the staff or resources to fully staff a maintenance crew to work in a specific area as requested. The department will request additional NEAT staffing on the FY05 operating budget, which could assist in this request. All available weeks without holidays are scheduled. NEAT will work with other departments and see if something can be worked out. These sort of cleanups have to be done on overtime and will affect the departments overtime budgets.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The N.E.A.T. Team has been transferred now to Code Enforcement.