

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

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); Hillsborough Bay (east); Old Tampa Bay (west).

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Need and Recommendation 1. Traffic Calming in Fair Oaks/Manhattan Manor Community.

Affected Boundaries: Manhattan Avenue (west), Dale Mabry Highway (east), Euclid Avenue (north), and Gandy Boulevard (east).

This is a section of South Tampa, which is bordered on all sides by heavily traveled roadways; three of which are main arteries. Gandy Boulevard (southern boundary) carries traffic to and from MacDill Air Force Base, fuel tank farms in Port Tampa, the Leroy Selmon Crosstown Expressway, Pinellas County, and various private sector industries, including Bank of America's processing center, (which operates three shifts, 24 hours a day). Traffic speed and volume on Gandy Boulevard attributable to the above-listed causes; encourages cut-through traffic on S. Clark Street. Traffic studies and surveys conducted in April and November of 2002 verified there is a speed and cut-through traffic problem on South Clark Street.

Additionally, these motorists tend to travel the east/west residential streets to S. Dale Mabry Highway and S. Manhattan Avenue. The streets most affected by this pattern are W. Fair Oak, W. Bay View, W. Bay Vista, W. Bay Court, and W. Bay Villa.

Tree planting as a deterrent to speeding was suggested. Based on the findings in the studies and surveys, we feel that there is sufficient cause to explore other control devices. Our recommendations are:

- a. Relocate traffic signal currently located at S. Lois Avenue and W. Gandy Boulevard, to S. Clark Street and W. Gandy Boulevard. This would enable traffic from the Bank of America Operations Center to exit onto S. Gandy Boulevard for access to the expressway, S. Dale Mabry Highway, and S. Manhattan Avenue. This would eliminate the need to use the residential streets in the neighborhood for that access. A study to determine the impact on traffic on traffic entering and exiting the expressway would also be warranted.
- b. Install speed tables on S. Clark Street, between W. Fair Oaks and W. Euclid Avenue. The studies and surveys conducted in the spring and fall of 2002, concluded that the average speed on S. Clark Street between W. Fair Oaks and W. Euclid averaged 4 mph greater than that from W. Fair Oaks to Gandy Boulevard. One possible reason for that would be that there are two speed-detering "dips" in the road between W. Gandy Boulevard and W. Fair Oaks. No such condition exists between W. Fair Oaks and W. Euclid. The indication is that speed tables are, in fact, an effective deterrent to speed.
- c. Construct sidewalks with elevated curbs to provide safe walking paths for the residents in this community. Some "Miami" curbing does exist in this area. However, this provides minimal, if any, protection for pedestrians. Some streets have no buffer at all between the sidewalk and the street.
- d. Construct a recreational center at Foster Playground, located at 4700 S. Clark Avenue. This neighborhood has a growing youth population, as well as a significant senior population. There is currently no facility in the neighborhood providing recreational activities to its population. Foster Playground is a location with sufficient space to accommodate a structure for this purpose. This is a mixed demographic neighborhood with a need for such a facility. Additionally, a building would provide the neighborhood with a location for meetings of the Neighborhood Association and the Crime Watch Association.

Response to a.: From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8105. The city has no jurisdictional authority over signals on a State roadway like Gandy Blvd. In the future, I suggest the Neighborhood submit a request in writing to FDOT in order to elicit a written response. Address your request to Traffic Operations, FDOT District Seven, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa, Florida 33612-6456. I can forward a request

for the signal relocation and potential study to FDOT. The results of the study will be forwarded to Marilyn Durst.

Also, the city does not have jurisdictional authority to perform a study of Expressway traffic. I suggest the Neighborhood submit a request in writing to the Hillsborough County Expressway Authority. Address your request to Mr. Martin Stone, Director of Planning, 412 East Madison Street, Tampa, Florida 33602.

FDOT has a project upcoming to widen and improve Gandy from the bridge to Dale Mabry. I doubt that they would conduct any studies until the improvements are done.

Response to b.: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The Transportation Division has developed a plan to install speed tables along S. Clark Avenue between W. Euclid Avenue and W. Fair Oaks Avenue during this fiscal year. A letter will be sent to the property owners abutting S. Clark Avenue inviting them to a residential meeting set for June 1, 2004. Temporary Public Notice boards will be installed notifying the road users of the residential meeting date and location to discuss the proposed traffic calming project. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss residential concerns about neighborhood traffic, the process of building a Neighborhood Traffic Control Plan, the construction process, and post construction traffic studies that will follow. Once the meeting is held, a mail-out consensus process will begin by soliciting only those property owners abutting S. Clark Avenue between W. Euclid Avenue and W. Fair Oaks Avenue. A minimum response rate and level of support is required prior to any traffic calming measure's installation.

Update to b: From William Porth, Engineer, Traffic Analysis Section, 274-8333. Five speed tables were installed on S. Clark Avenue between Euclid and Fair Oaks in July 2004.

Response to c.: From Alexander P. Awad, Manager, Development and Consumer Affairs, Stormwater Department, 274-8771. The Stormwater Maintenance Division reviewed the area in question and does not install or maintain curbing for issues such as:

- 1) Stopping private property from washing into the street.
- 2) Delineating the edge of pavement to prevent people from driving on grass.
- 3) Preventing parking along the right of way.
- 4) Enhancing aesthetics.

Response to c.: From Thomas Capell, Streets Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-7274. The current policy of the New Sidewalk Program allows for the installation of elevated curb for sidewalk when there is not sufficient room to provide an acceptable clear zone of four (4') feet from the edge of the pavement. The decision is typically determined during the design phase of a project, when the street and drainage design is being developed. New sidewalks are normally not constructed with curbs, unless drainage issues or other extenuating circumstances dictates otherwise. Existing sidewalks are only retrofitted to meet current curb or clear zone requirements in locations where there are extreme or unusual

manager for this roadway is Ron Caldi, 975-6000. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and the City of Tampa Parks Department's current Tampa Greenways and Trails Master Plan includes proposed routes for Greenways/Trails within our municipality. This roadway is not identified as having either an 'On' or 'Off-road' facility in the Tampa Greenways and Trails Master Plan (November 2000), that has been adopted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

On April 13, 2004, all interested voting members of the Tampa Greenways and Trails CAC are invited to assist technical staff in developing a list of priority recommendations for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funding for FY05/06 to FY09/10. The TIP Priorities subcommittee developed TIP recommendations forwarded to the full CAC for consideration at their special April 27, 2004 meeting (Seminole Heights Garden Center 6:00 p.m.). The Priorities Subcommittee utilized the "Segment Prioritization Evaluation Matrix" recommended in the Tampa Greenways and Trails Master Plan to prioritize projects. The Priorities Subcommittee will evaluate all previously submitted, unfunded projects, plus new project requests. A comprehensive listing of priorities, by funding category will be developed for Transportation Enhancement projects and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects. The application deadline is May 14, 2004 for submission of project funding requests to the MPO. It is important to remember that all projects must be consistent with the MPO's adopted *Year 2005 Long Range Transportation Plan* which may be viewed or downloaded at the following website: <http://www.hillsboroughmpo.org/plans/long.htm>.

The City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department is currently looking into the possibility of putting a future trail in the rail corridor paralleling the Crosstown expressway into the Port Tampa neighborhood. This particular rail corridor has some narrow sections north of Gandy Blvd., which may make it difficult to parallel with a trail. The Port Tampa residents are interested in joining the three parks in their area that are parallel to this rail corridor. The Parks and Recreation Department are researching what other communities are doing in their pursuit of rail corridors and what other rail corridor owners have done. In the future, the Parks and Recreation Department plans on approaching the rail corridor owner, CSX Transportation, about the possibility of using their corridors for trails. The chance of this becoming a reality will require time and money that is not currently available.

Update: From Mahdi Mansour, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department is currently working on creating greenways/trails in south Tampa that ultimately will connect Bayshore Boulevard with the Friendship Trail.

Need and Recommendation 3. Upgrade Stormwater Drainage.

The Stormwater drainage needs to be upgraded within the south Tampa community. Severe flooding exists throughout the neighborhoods, specifically during the rainy season. This problem needs to be addressed throughout Area #8. Boundaries are as follows: W. Euclid Avenue (N), MacDill AFB (S), Hillsborough Bay (E), and Old Tampa Bay (W).

Response: From Alexander P. Awad, Manager, Development and Consumer Affairs, Stormwater Department, 274-8771. The city has a number of projects planned to address various drainage problems in the South Tampa area. Due to the number of drainage systems involved and the lack of detail in the request, it is difficult to determine if the specific needs of the Block Club are to be addressed. If the Club would care to provide us with additional information on specific drainage needs we will be able to determine if it is to be addressed. They may contact the Operations Division at 622-1901 to report specific flooding instances and the Planning Division at 274-7221 to see if a project is already planned for the subject area. I attempted to call Kim Allen a couple of times between Monday and Tuesday the week of May 3rd at 832-3153 but was unable to contact her.

Update: From Alexander P. Awad, Manager, Development and Consumer Affairs, Stormwater Department, 274-8771. The city has a number of projects planned to address various drainage problems in the South Tampa area. Due to the number of drainage systems involved and the lack of detail in the request, it is difficult to determine if the specific needs of the Block Club are to be addressed. The Block Club can contact the Operations Division at 622-1901 to report specific flooding instances and the Planning Division at 274-7221 to see if a project is already planned for the subject area. I also contacted Ms. Kim Allen and informed her of the procedures for reporting flooding problems. She will have Mr. Al Steensen contact me to discuss specific locations.

Need and Recommendation 4. Buffer with Landscaping.

Provide a buffer with landscaping or fencing behind the business establishments on the south side of W. Gandy Boulevard, between S. Westshore and S. Trask. There are several businesses, which operate late into the evening, disturbing the homeowners, as their property is immediately in the rear of the businesses, located on McElroy Avenue.

The request is for mitigation of both lighting and traffic generated by the businesses on Gandy Boulevard.

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The Parks and Recreation Department does not install fencing on private property.

Response: From Mahdi Mansour, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The city is unable to provide landscaping and or fencing outside of the city's right-of-way, on private property. The homeowners on McElroy Avenue should contact the owners of the commercial properties on the south side of Gandy Boulevard with their complaints.

Need and Recommendation 5. Additional Recreational Opportunities.

For the areas north of Port Tampa and south of Fair Oaks Avenue, west of Ballast Point and Gasden Parks – there is only Bobby Hicks pool for approximately 5,000 households, and no parks or recreational/arts and crafts opportunities.

Playground enhancements are needed, as well as picnic tables, grills, and gazebos. Over 2,000 additional dwelling units have been approved for this area within the past two years, with no attendant city-sponsored amenities.

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The Parks and Recreation Department are in the process of developing a Recovery Action Plan (RAP) for the parks and recreation facilities. The RAP looks at the elements within a park, and creation of new park and determines if amenities are warranted. If the element is warranted, it will be placed in the next year's budget request. The RAP is scheduled to be completed by June 2004.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The RAP is scheduled to be completed by December 2004.

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