

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

Block Club:	Area IX
Neighborhoods:	Carver City/Lincoln Gardens, North Bon Air, MacFarland Park, Oakford Park, Westshore Palms, Gray Gables/Bon Air/Southern Pines, Palma Ceia, Golfview, Beach Park, Beach Park Isles, Culbreath Isles, Culbreath Bayou, Culbreath Heights, Sunset Park, Mid-Peninsular, Virginia Park, Bel Mar Shores, and Southern Pines.
Boundaries:	Columbus Drive (north); Euclid Avenue (south); MacDill Avenue (east); Old Tampa Bay (west).
Contact Person:	Ms. Thelma Davis, Chairperson 1602 N. Lois Avenue Tampa, FL 33607 Phone: 878-0025 (h)

Need and Recommendation 1. Guardrail Installed on N. Grady Avenue.

A guardrail is needed for a ditch on N. Grady Avenue, between W. Spruce Street and W. Laurel Street – a deep, open ditch, located on the east side of the intersection. The request for a guardrail on Grady Avenue has been made many times. Grady Avenue is a narrow two-lane street, with a deep ditch on the east side of the street. It is a danger for cars and pedestrians. During the rainy season, the ditch fills with water and the only evidence a ditch exists, is a bent, white reflector.

Response: From Alexander P. Awad, Manager, Development and Consumer Affairs, Stormwater Department, 274-8771. The Stormwater Maintenance Division investigated the location of the ditch system. The ditch is functioning as designed, and meets current stormwater standards. The installation of guard rails for traffic safety has been forwarded to the Transportation Division for their review and determination.

Response: From Scott Shaw, Engineer, Traffic Operations Chief, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 622-1955. The ditch is on Grady between Laurel and Spruce. It is located approximately 4 feet from the edge of the pavement, 660 feet in length and 22 feet wide. This request has been forward to Design Section for review and approval.

Update: From Thomas Capell, Streets Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-7274. Transportation Division has performed a preliminary survey in the area to determine if a guardrail can be installed with the existing conditions of the ditch. The Drafting

Division is awaiting the survey and will provide information to the Design Section once they have completed their work. A cost estimate will be formulated at that time which will determine if the work can be completed in the current budget or if it will be programmed into next years budget analysis.

Need and Recommendation 2. Block Wall constructed around City of Tampa Maintenance.

We are requesting the construction of a block wall around the City of Tampa's Solid Waste and Building Maintenance Departments, along N. Grady Avenue and W. Laurel Street, off W. Spruce Street. These two departments are housed in the center of our neighborhood and are very unsightly. An old fence with broken lattice now exists along N. Grady Avenue. This area is also overgrown. A partial concrete wall exists along W. Laurel Street, just off N. Lois Avenue to N. Clark Avenue, but the rest of the area is exposed to the neighbors on W. Laurel Avenue. This wall has been promised for over eight years.

Response: From Varghese Jacob, Administrative and Fiscal Manager, Solid Waste Department, 348-1104. The Department of Public Works (Fleet Maintenance Division), along with Solid Waste Department, has engaged a consultant to study and propose a master plan for the entire site. This plan will address the future of existing buildings, landscaping, security issues, and traffic. The wall or other aesthetically pleasing structure or devises or landscape will be considered according to this master plan and will be requested in future Capital Improvement Budget.

Update: From Varghese Jacob, Administrative and Fiscal Manager, Solid Waste Department, 348-1104. We have received the master plan for the site and it has been reviewed to prioritize the projects and looking into funding issues. The master plan assumes the completion of reconstruction within 10 years, which may change, based on the availability of funds for the project.

Need and Recommendation 3. Upgrade Stormwater Drainage on N. Clark.

The Stormwater drainage system needs to be upgraded on N. Clark Avenue, between W. Laurel Street and W. Cypress Street. Flooding exists at this location, specifically during the rainy season. Water stands on N. Clark for several days after a rain.

Response: From Alexander P. Awad, Manager, Development and Consumer Affairs, Stormwater Department, 274-8771. The Stormwater Maintenance Division is investigating the cause of the ponding problem. A survey of the drainage system will be performed to determine if milling and resurfacing of the existing intersection will relieve the area from flooding.

Update: From Alexander P. Awad, Manager, Development and Consumer Affairs, Stormwater Department, 274-8771. The flooding problem in the area does not affect the surrounding residences. The Maintenance Division will look into the future overlay plans for the intersection and make a recommendation at that time.

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Need and Recommendation 4. Landscaping Requested for Westshore Palms.

- a. Low bushes and trees are requested along all roadways.
- b. W. Gray Street from N. Lois Avenue, from I-275 to W. Kennedy Boulevard.
- c. N. Lois Avenue to W. North A Street, from N. Lois Avenue to N. Westshore Boulevard.
- d. N. Westshore Boulevard to W. North B Street, from N. Lois Avenue to N. Westshore Boulevard.
- e. W. Fig Street from N. Lois Avenue to N. Westshore Boulevard.

Response to a.-e.: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The department does not normally landscape right-of-ways due to the limited space along the right-of-ways.

Need and Recommendation 5. Upgrade Street Lights in Westshore Palms.

Street lighting needs to be upgraded in Westshore Palms. Some areas have little or no lights.

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 street lights 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). Specific locations have been 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 6. Tree Planting on N. Hubert Street.

Small trees are being requested along the sidewalks at the following locations:

- a. N. Hubert Avenue, between W. Gray Street and W. North A Street.
- b. N. Hubert Avenue, between W. Gray Street and W. North B Street.
- c. W. North B Street, between N. Lois Avenue and N. Westshore Boulevard.

Response to a.-c.: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The department does not normally landscape right-of-ways due to the limited space along the right-of-ways. Parks and Recreation will investigate these streets and see if planting of trees is possible under established criteria (sight lines, recovery zones, overhead and below ground utilities, etc.). If these sites are appropriate, trees will be planted.

Update to a.-c.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Trees have been planted along the streets where possible.

Need and Recommendation 7. Signs Requested.

Signs are being requested throughout the community for the following:

- a. Lawn maintenance people to refrain from blowing leaves into the sewer.
- b. Reminder to pet owners to pick up after their dog.

Response: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The City of Tampa has adopted the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which is a Federal document used by Engineers to research, design, guide and direct the installation of traffic control devices such as signs. The MUTCD states the following as the support and standard for installing traffic control devices (signs).

- The purpose of traffic control devices, as well as the principles for their use, is to promote highway safety and efficiency by providing for the orderly movement of all road users on streets and highways throughout the Nation.
- Traffic control devices notify road users of regulations and provide warning and guidance needed for the reasonably safe, uniform, and efficient operation of all elements of the traffic stream.
- Traffic control devices or their supports shall not bear any advertising message or any other message that is not related to traffic control.

Neither of the requested signs meets the support or standard for the installation of traffic control devices. Therefore, the Transportation Division does not recommend their installation.

Update: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The requested signs are not approved sign applications within the right-of-way. The Transportation Division is the sole authority for the installation of signs in the city right-of-ways. If the requested signs are to mitigate problems arising from use of a park (private property), the Parks and Recreation Department may install signs on their property.

Need and Recommendation 8. Speed Calming on W. North B Street.

Speed calming devices are needed on W. North B Street, from N. Lois Avenue to N. Westshore Boulevard. This particular street is a “race track” for motorists. We do not want a fatality to occur before this is addressed.

Response: 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.

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.

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.

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.

Currently, W. North B Street between N. Lois Avenue and N. Westshore Boulevard is ranked 75 out of 157 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 W. North B Street on the SLL, we will work with the affected property owners and their neighbors to find the best solution to address the speeding problem.

Update: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. As of November 9, 2004, W. North B Street between N. Lois Avenue and N. Westshore Boulevard is ranked 74 out of 157 local residential and Neighborhood Collector streets with a documented speeding problem.

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Need and Recommendation 9. Funding for Westshore Palms Newsletter.

The Westshore Palms Civic Association is requesting funding to develop and distribute a newsletter to the residents of the association. The newsletter would inform residents and neighbors of community issues and events, which affect their community. We strongly believe a newsletter would also assist in providing a networking mechanism for our association.

Boundaries of the Westshore Palms Civic Association is as follows:

- (N) I-275
- (S) W. Kennedy Boulevard
- (E) N. Lois Avenue
- (W) N. Westshore Boulevard

Response: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations, 274-7835. The Neighborhood and Community Relations Office highly encourages all neighborhood associations to create a newsletter whether it be a printed newsletter or distributed via e-mail as an important mechanism to communicate with their neighbors. Currently, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Office does not have budgeted funds to provide to the registered City of Tampa neighborhood associations for communications efforts. However, the Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations received for the first time ever funding in FY04 for neighborhood mini-grants to qualified City of Tampa registered neighborhood associations. Our goal is to launch the mini-grants in June 04 and award the grants in September 04. The Westshore Palms Civic Association is currently a registered City of Tampa neighborhood association and would be able to apply to this new City of Tampa mini-grant program.

Response: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations, 274-7835. The Mini-grant Program has not been finalized due to legal issues. The Neighborhood and Community Relations Office shall notify the neighborhood associations when the application is available.

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Need and Recommendation 10. Neighborhood Signs Requested in Westshore Palms.

Neighborhood signs are being requested for Westshore Palms to distinguish itself from other communities. Suggested locations are:

- a. N. Gray Street entrance.**
- b. N. Lois Avenue and W. Gray Street entrance.**
- c. N. Lois Avenue and W. North B Street.**
- d. W. North B Street and N. Westshore Boulevard**

Response: From William Porth, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The Transportation Division will install (2) free neighborhood signs and then additional neighborhood signs at the cost of \$250 per additional sign. The Westshore Palms Neighborhood received its two (2) free neighborhood signs, the first in 1993 and its second in 2000.

If it is the desire of the neighborhood to install four (4) additional neighborhood signs, the neighborhood must secure an amended neighborhood sign agreement from the Transportation Division and submit the amended agreement back to the Transportation Division with a motion from the neighborhood board supporting the sign installation.

After this, the neighborhood shall submit their preferred installation locations for the Transportation Division's approval. Once mutually agreeable installation locations are selected, the Transportation Division will create work request on behalf of the neighborhood to have the signs installed.

Next, the Transportation Division will forward the following materials to a neighborhood representative for their approval, signature and initialing respectively: a cover letter, a sign agreement with Article V sign location completed and a copy of the work order(s). Once approved, signed and initialed, these documents must be returned to the Transportation Division with a check in an amount equal to the number of signs multiplied by \$250 (4 signs x \$250=\$1000).

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Need and Recommendation 11. Requesting Dog Park at W. Gray Street and N. Manhattan Avenue.

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The city has established four dog parks throughout the city over the past few years. At this present time, the department is not funded for any additional dog parks. The department is still waiting on the Recovery Action Plan (RAP) that will provide information on the various elements needed in the parks and playgrounds. If funding does come available in the future the department will consider the above mentioned address.

Need and Recommendation 12. Shrubbery Planted at North A Street, Between N. Manhattan Avenue and N. Westshore Boulevard.

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The department does not normally landscape right-of-ways due to the limited space along the right-of-ways.

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Need and Recommendation 13. Landscaping Requested at TECO Power Plant.

Landscaping is requested to conceal the TECO power plant at W. Gray Street and N. Manhattan Avenue.

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The above mentioned property is not owned by the city and therefore the department can not do landscaping. The community may want to discuss landscaping with TECO in an attempt to improve the appearance around the plant. The Parks and Recreation Department will review any landscape drawings in order to assist the community in the project.