

**CITY OF TAMPA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2005-2006
December 15, 2005**

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).

Chairperson: Mr. Jim Gray, LDO
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Tampa, FL 33607
Phone: (813) 253-0527 (w)

Contact Person: Harriet McCray
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Need and Recommendation 2. Upgrade of Pedestrian Flash Crosswalk to Full Scale Pedestrian Walkway (crosswalk) Traffic Light at Rey Park Center/Playground.

Boundaries: (N) W. Columbus Drive, (S) I-275, (E) Hillsborough River, (W) N. Armenia Avenue

Located at 2301 N. Howard Avenue

Due to the high speed and high volume traffic, a pedestrian crosswalk traffic light is needed for this area. The flashing walk signal is now inadequate. The recreation center is extremely active and is highly utilized by all segments of our population in our community.

Response: From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8105. We studied this location and counted only 96 pedestrians crossing Howard Avenue in a 14 hour period. This does not meet the pedestrian warrant for a traffic signal.

Need and Recommendation 4. Road signs on Howard Avenue, Beach Street and Albany, to Keep Trailer Trucks from coming into the Neighborhood.

Boundaries: Howard Avenue, Beach Street and Albany.

The signs need to be placed facing traffic, so drivers can see them before entering the streets. The street is not appropriate for large size trucks; also children like to play in the streets.

Response: From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The Traffic Analysis Section will have No Truck signs installed on W. Beach Street at N. Howard Avenue for eastbound traffic and on N. Albany Avenue at W. Main Street for northbound traffic and on N. Albany Avenue at W. Columbus Drive for southbound traffic.

North Howard Avenue is a designated truck route and No Truck signs on that street are not applicable.

Update: From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. Sign installation is not complete. Creating work request and once approved request is transferred to the maintenance shop for installing. The estimated time for installation is between 2-6 months.

Contact Person: Carolyn Collins
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Need and Recommendation 5. Traffic Calming Devices.

- a. *Install traffic calming device on W. Spruce St., between Fremont and Rome Avenue.*
- b. **Replace existing four way stop sign at the intersection of W. Spruce St and N. Rome Ave for a traffic light.**

A new charter school has been opened during the 2003-2004 school year. The students are 6th through 8th graders and they are dropped off and picked up. They cross the street for cafeteria meals and programs. The community has experienced speeders, despite posted warnings. Drivers are not stopping at the four-way stop signs.

Response to b.: From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8105. A traffic count and accident analysis was conducted for the intersection of Spruce Street and North Rome Avenue. We did not find any safety issues in our investigation. This intersection did not meet any warrants for installation of traffic signals.

Need and Recommendation 6. Cross Walk for Children and Elderly.

- a. **On Rome Avenue.**
- b. **Between Main Street and Spruce Street.**

There are two schools and two public housing units in the immediate area. The schools provide academic experiences to students in primary grades K-5 and middle school grades 6th – 8th. The housing units provide residence for low-income families, senior citizens and medically needy persons. They are constantly crossing Rome Avenue for necessary services.

Response: From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. A field review of N. Rome Avenue between W. Main Street and W. Spruce Street revealed the existence of five (5) east/west crosswalks in the above three blocks of N. Rome Avenue. These locations are as follows:

- Two (2) east/west crosswalks at the intersection of W. Main Street
- Two (2) east/west crosswalks at the intersection of W. Union Street
- One (1) east/west crosswalk at the intersection of W. Spruce Street (south side)

These five (5) existing east/west crosswalks provide ample opportunity for pedestrians to safely cross between service providers. Therefore, the Transportation Division cannot recommend the installation of additional east/west crosswalks.

Need and Recommendation 7. Four Additional Traffic Lights.

Traffic Light Locations:

- a. **Corner of North Rome Avenue and Spruce Street West.**
- b. **One at the corner of North Rome Avenue and Columbus Drive.**
- c. **One at the corner of North Rome Avenue and Kennedy Boulevard.**
- d. **One at the corner of North Rome Avenue and Cypress Street.**

Response to a.-d.: From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8105.

a.) The intersection of North Rome and Spruce Street did not meet any warrants for installation of traffic signals.

b.) The intersection of North Rome and Columbus meets several warrants for traffic signals and has been placed on our Signal Priority list. However, current funding levels only allow the installation of one signal per year, and this one is number 14.

c.) The intersection of Rome and Kennedy Boulevard is on the state highway system which is under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation, District 7, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa. The contact person is Mr. Anthony Chaumont at 975-6250. Please call him directly with your concern.

d.) The intersection of North Rome and Cypress Street did not meet any warrants for installation of traffic signals.

Need and Recommendation 8. Covered Bus Walk Way Shelters.

Bus Walk Way Shelters and Locations:

- a. **One at North Rome Avenue and Spruce Street.**
- b. **One at North Rome Avenue and Columbus Drive.**
- c. **One at North Rome Avenue and Cypress Street.**
- d. **One at North Rome Avenue and Kennedy Boulevard.**
- e. **One at North Rome Avenue and Howard Avenue.**
- f. **One at the corner of Main Street/Moses White Boulevard and Howard Avenue.**
- g. **One at the corner of Main Street/Moses White Boulevard and North Boulevard.**
- h. **One at the corner of Columbus Drive and Howard Avenue.**

Response: From Mahdi Mansour, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. The city has written a letter forwarding your request to HARTline. Please contact Mr.

Les Weakland with HARTline at 223-6831 to follow-up on this request in the future. The city would only be involved in the permitting of these structures in the city right-of-way.

Need and Recommendation 9. Increase Police Monitoring During Opening and Closing Time for the Church Services and the Church Schools.

Location – Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, 2002 N. Rome Avenue. Needed for increased safety, protection and prevention from the risks that are possible without security for the community residents and community visitors.

Response: From Ann Andrews, Grants Specialist, Police Department, 276-3755. District One’s Lieutenant, areas Sergeant and officers met with Ms. Davis, Program Director for the school to discuss the concerns of the church and school. The following assistance was offered as a result of the meeting:

- Zone units will monitor the area as time permits for trespassers and drug dealers harassing the students.
- Zone units will also check for speeders in the vicinity of the church especially when program students arrive and leave the building.
- Occasionally, a marked unit will be parked on the property for presence.
- The District I Crime Prevention Officer is attempting to have the area converted to a school zone. This officer will meet with Ms. Davis at a later time.
- All information was passed onto Cycle A (the other shift that patrols that area) supervisors and officers for uniformity in coverage.

Update: From Major Bob Guidara, Tampa Police Department, District Two, 931-6599. According to Major Michael George, Commander of the affected area; members of the district command staff met with school administrators and implemented the list of recommendations noted in previous report. The operational application has proved effective and eliminated those factors, which gave rise to concern. There have been no further reports of problems at the school.