

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

Block Club: City-wide

Neighborhoods: City-wide

Boundaries: City-wide

Contact Person: All Block Club Captains

Need and Recommendation 1. Code Enforcement.

We request that Solid Waste and Code Enforcement actively collaborate and develop an on-going process to address illegal dumping, as well as vacant lots and rental property debris such as furniture and appliances in a timely manner. We are also requesting more available roll-off/dumpsters for scheduled neighborhood use.

Revamp the statutes to deter blatant code violators from continuous and overtly disregarding city codes for extended periods of time.

Response: From William Doherty, Deputy Director, Code Enforcement, 274-5562. Solid Waste and Code Enforcement are actively collaborating and working aggressively to respond to the illegal dumping occurring on the vacant lots and rental property. Along with the annual neighborhood clean-ups, selected neighborhoods are being identified for special cleanup initiatives, one of which occurred already in March of this year in Sulphur Springs. The Police Department is researching the concept of establishing a special unit (six Detectives – two in each District) but will not be able to accomplish the task without a funding source for new positions. The Solid Waste Department is looking for an additional site within the city that could be used by citizens to dispose of the items in question and are requesting funding for the drop off site in FY06 budget. The Code Enforcement Department is streamlining their procedures to shorten compliance deadlines and are referring blatant violators to Criminal Court.

Update: From William Doherty, Deputy Director, Code Enforcement, 274-5562. Selected neighborhoods had special cleanup initiatives which occurred in March at Sulphur Springs, in July at West Tampa, in August at Drew Park, and in October at East Ybor City.

Response: From Ann Andrews, Grants Specialist, Police Department, 276-3755. Code issues are being discussed and are trying to be resolved through “Code Court”.

Need and Recommendation 2. Nebraska Avenue Lighting.

We are extremely excited about the planned revitalization of Nebraska Avenue. We are requesting that the lighting along this corridor be upgraded to reflect the new look of the avenue.

Response: From Mahdi Mansour, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, Transportation Planning, 274-8333. Nebraska Avenue, State Road 45, is under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Through intense coordination, the city was able to work with the FDOT to have

the FDOT's resurfaced corridor re-striped into a 3-lane configuration with bicycle lanes and bus pull-out areas. Elements for pedestrians were also incorporated such as enhanced crosswalks, raised medians, irrigation and landscaping (by the City Parks & Recreation Department). The project will be lead by the FDOT for bidding in October 2005. The design is complete and FDOT construction is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2006.

Because this was a resurfacing project and not a reconstruction project by the FDOT, lighting was not an element included in this project. The lighting has been evaluated in the past. It has been determined by city staff, FDOT and TECO that the existing roadway lighting is adequate. If there are any particularly dark areas, please identify them for specific evaluation. Unfortunately, there are no funds or plans to include upgraded lighting on this corridor. The City of Tampa will continue to work with FDOT to seek funding for enhancement and improvement on Nebraska Avenue.

Update: From Mahdi Mansour, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, Transportation Planning, 274-8333. The FDOT project for Nebraska Avenue (Kennedy Blvd. to Hillsborough Avenue) is for reconstruction of outside lanes, milling and resurfacing of the existing roadway, drainage improvements, and pedestrian facility improvements including sidewalk repairs and enhanced crosswalks. The proposed construction activities will also include major utility relocation throughout the corridor. The project will be managed by FDOT for bidding in December 2005. The design is 100% complete and FDOT construction is scheduled to begin in July of 2006. The FDOT construction is scheduled to last 1,050 days. The city also coordinated the incorporation of elements for pedestrians such as enhanced crosswalks, raised medians, and future irrigation/landscaping. The future Landscape and Irrigation Project is planned by the city Parks and Recreation Department following the completion of the FDOT project in 2010. No additional funding has been provided for enhancement to Nebraska Avenue.

Need and Recommendation 3. Long Range Transportation Planning.

We are asking for the establishment of a citizen-involved, pro-active, and on-going Transportation Task Force that includes the MPO and Transportation Planning. The purpose of this group will be to address current and future transportation needs.

Response: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations Office, 274-7835. The Neighborhood and Community Relations Office will work with the community to organize a new Citizen's Transportation Task Force and will again serve as the conduit of information between city staff and the Citizen's Transportation Task Force upon the Mayor's approval. In 2004, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Office along with members of the Transportation Department and the Parks and Recreation Department organized a Citizens Advisory Committee for the Nebraska Avenue enhancement project and have held numerous meetings including a public meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation. The Nebraska Advisory Committee consists of neighborhood leaders as well as interested citizens who have expressed an interest in providing input to the City of Tampa regarding Nebraska Avenue enhancement project.

Response: From Mahdi Mansour, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, Transportation Planning, 274-8333. The Nebraska Avenue Citizen's Advisory Committee was convened and disbanded after several input gathering meetings. Task Forces are set up at the Mayor's direction such as the Bayshore Boulevard Task Force. The City appreciates the pro-active citizenry relative to current and future transportation needs. The current and future transportation needs are dictated by the Metropolitan Planning Commission's (MPO's) Long Range Transportation Plan, <http://www.hillsboroughmpo.org/plans/long.htm>, and the City of Tampa's Adopted Comprehensive Plan, <http://www.plancom.org/>. As redevelopment occurs, effected area residents are notified by public postings. For specific transportation concerns, citizens

are asked to please use the City of Tampa Customer Service Center located at <http://www.tampagov.net/appl/customer-service-center/>. Sidewalk, resurfacing and traffic calming needs may also be requested through the City of Tampa's Customer Service Center under the services by those names. A Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) exists for the MPO. All MPO meetings are open to the public and generally provide opportunities for the public to speak. Call staff for meeting times and locations (813) 272-5940, or go to <http://www.hillsboroughmpo.org/meetings/agenda.htm>.

Need and Recommendation 4. Excessive Litter.

We would like to have trash receptacles provided along all major thoroughfares to help eliminate excessive litter.

Response: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations Office, 274-7835. The Neighborhood and Community Relations Office along with the Mayor's Special Assistant and the Communications Department is organizing a public awareness campaign to address litter.

Update: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations Office, 274-7835. The Neighborhood and Community Relations Office along with the Public Affairs Director and Clean City Division has organized a public awareness campaign committee to address litter through a public awareness campaign. Funding challenges is preventing us from moving forward with the public awareness campaign.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department currently does not have the resources to purchase and maintain trash receptacles along all major thoroughfares.

Response: From William Doherty, Deputy Director, Code Enforcement, 274-5562. The Code Enforcement Department is aware that the administration has directed that a strong emphasis be placed upon cleaning up the excessive litter that is seen throughout the city. We believe that during this fiscal year a program and strategy will be developed to positively address this problem.

Update: From William Doherty, Deputy Director, Code Enforcement, 274-5562. During this fiscal year the administration created the Clean City Division in Neighborhood Services to address this problem in a positive fashion.

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