

CITY OF TAMPA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2006-2007
December 5, 2006

Block Club: Area I

Neighborhoods: Florence Villa, Beasley, Grant Park, Oak Park, Northview Hills, Galloway Heights, Northeast Community, and Highland Pines.

Boundaries: Hillsborough River (north); Tampa By-Pass Canal (south); Tampa By-Pass Canal (east); 40th Street (west).

**Chairperson/
Contact Person:** Ms. Rosalie Jones
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Need and Recommendation 1. Improvements for Williams Park Center/Playground:

The playground's back parking lot is on 43rd Street. Chelsea Avenue runs east and west. Williams Park activity center is located at 4362 E. Osborne Avenue.

Proper leveling to the track is needed because when it rains, the track is under water for several days. Resurfacing is needed to help water run-off into the retention pond.

Williams Park activity center needs to be expanded to accommodate other activities. Accordion dividers are currently being used to separate spaces for accommodating some activities.

There are three (3) schools in close proximity of the center. Computers are needed for after-school training and tutoring program. When exercise classes are in session, children do not have enough space for their inside activities, nor can game tables be used during this time.

- a. Drainage system for Williams Park Playground/northwest quadrant.
- b. Expand Williams Park activity center by adding an office and an exercise room.
- c. *Purchase computers and exercise equipment for Williams Park activity center.*
- d. Install wrought iron fencing and gate on back parking lot of playground.

- e. **Resurface Chelsea Avenue.**
- f. **Install traffic calming devices from 40th to 50th Streets, on Chelsea Avenue.**
- g. **Complete sidewalk repairs on Ashland Drive, John Bell Drive, Curtis and portions of Atwater.**

Response to a: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. There was a five-foot deep sinkhole at Williams Park Playground that will be filled in. We will investigate further whether the water may accumulate during the summer rains.

Update to a: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Staff has filled the sink hole and has evaluated the area which is the natural drainage area for the park. Walking trail ("track") is at a very low grade and would need to be raised several feet with culverts added to stay dry. There is no funding identified and there are no plans for this project at this time.

Response to b: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Funding is not available to expand the activity centers at this time. However, funding will be requested in the Fiscal Year 2008 budget request.

Update to b: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Pending the FY2008 budget.

Response to d: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department will investigate the cost of the wrought iron fencing and come back to the community for assistance in raising funds to partner in this endeavor.

Update to d: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department will have the cost estimate by the end of 2006 and then will meet with the community to discuss funding of this project.

Response to e: From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 622-1955. As we indicated last year, Chelsea Avenue from 40th Street to 50th Street is the responsibility of the Hillsborough County Maintenance Division, because it is classified as a Collector Roadway leading from the county into the city limits. The city has no jurisdiction as to the condition of this roadway. There are many other similar roadways within the city limits where the county is responsible for the pavement through an Interlocal Agreement for Maintenance with the city. Ms. Rosalie Jones should call Mr. Rob Swain with the Hillsborough County Maintenance Division directly at 307-1766 to formally request that he conduct a survey to determine if the road needs resurfacing, or she can call the Project Management Office at 272-5912 and leave a message for him to call her back.

Update to e: From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 622-1955. Requestor referred to Hillsborough County for Pavement Maintenance. No further response necessary.

Response to f: From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Before consideration is given to the installation of speed tables or any other traffic calming measures on local residential streets or Neighborhood-Collector roadways, 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 to be a problem at a point in which 85% of the motorists are traveling 10 mph or more above the designated speed limit.

The City of Tampa currently has documented 235 locations City-wide with speeding problems on local residential streets, Neighborhood-Collector roadways, and the higher volume Collectors and Arterials. Of the 235 locations, 160 of them qualify for traffic calming measures because they are classified as local residential streets or Neighborhood-Collector roadways. The remaining locations do not qualify for traffic calming because they are classified as Collectors and Arterials.

As each new speeding location is documented, it is 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, we are working to resolve the documented speeding problems in the order of severity (worst-case first). When we reach a requested location on the SLL that qualifies for traffic calming measures, we will work with the affected property owners and their neighbors to find the best solution to address the speeding problem.

Currently, E. Chelsea Street between N. 40th Street and the city limits at N. John Bell Drive is ranked 8 out of all the 235 locations with a documented speeding problem. However, this segment does not qualify for City of Tampa traffic calming measures, because it is classified as a Collector and is under the jurisdiction of Hillsborough County through an Interlocal Agreement for Maintenance with the City. We must therefore rely solely on traffic enforcement as provided by the Tampa Police Department (TPD) whom you may contact at 231-6130 directly with your circumstance.

Response to f: From Major Robert J. Guidara, Tampa Police Department, District III, 276-3700. Officers will investigate and monitor the area for violators and cite as necessary.

Update to f: From Major Robert J. Guidara, Tampa Police Department, District III, 276-3700. Officers were assigned to investigate and monitor the area for violators and cite as necessary. Also, the Special Operations Division was notified of the complaint. Based on the enforcement actions by the respective divisions, the District III office has not received any follow-up complaints of speeding in this area.

Response to g: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works 274-8303. Work has been scheduled for the following locations under the FY06 Restoration Contract, PW 5268. Please note they should be completed by October 2006:

WO 6704	Ashland: Osborne to Dead-end
WO 6705	Ashland: Ashmore to Curtis
WO 6706	Atwater: Chelsea to Cayuga
WO 6707	Atwater: Cayuga to 48 th
WO 6708	John Bell: Chelsea to Cayuga
WO 6709	John Bell: Cayuga to Curtis
WO 6710	Curtis: John Bell to 48 th
WO 6711	Curtis: 48 th to Ashland

Update to g: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works 274-8303. These projects are still on the schedule and should be done by October 2007. The FY06 restoration program was delayed.