

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

Block Club: Area II

Neighborhoods: Palmetto Beach, Historic Ybor City, Belmont Heights/Jackson Heights, College Hill Community, Live Oak Square, South Nebraska, Woodland Terrace, and River Cove.

Boundaries: Sligh Avenue and Hillsborough River (north); Hillsborough Bay (south); 40th Street (east); 15th Street (west).

Chairperson/: Mr. Vince Ficarotta
Contact Person: Palmetto Beach Community Association, Inc.
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Need and Recommendation 2. Create funding for lighting for softball and soccer field parking lot at Desoto Park.

The DeSoto Park Master Plan implementation should include funding to provide lighting for parking lot and replacement of the softball/soccer field with lighting. There was a combo field with lighting and the Master Plan has always indicated that the field and lighting would be relocated. When the park is entered at night, it is very dark and drivers cannot see the curbs to turn in the parking lot adjacent to pavilion. This is a hazard for anyone driving into the park at night to attend meetings and events, especially with children walking around in the park. Anything less would be a great injustice of the kind that government is accused of so often.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Lights have been installed at the ballfield and parking lot.

Need and Recommendation 4. Bermuda Boulevard beautification and completion of bike path.

- a. *The bike path is incomplete from the Licata Bridge (south), to DeSoto Park (north).*
- b. **Requesting beautification of Bermuda Boulevard.**
- c. *Replace/repair seawall with added sidewalk-greenway trail.*
- d. **Reduce occasions of speeders via speed bumps, humps, or tables.**
- e. *Eliminate illegal construction in McKay Bay.*

f. Replace sidewalk on West Side of Gordon Street and Davis Street.

Response to b: From Jim Pinkney, Division Manager, Clean City, 931-2143. Bermuda Boulevard is currently under the City of Tampa maintenance contract. Clean City is responsible for the right of way maintenance, and Parks and Recreation is responsible for the landscape design, if required.

Update to b: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department is currently working with Transportation Department on the potential bike path. Landscaping/ beautification will be then be considered depending on the outcome of the bike path project.

Response to d: 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, Bermuda Blvd between E. Linsey Street and S. 22nd Street is ranked 120 out of the 160 local residential streets and Neighborhood-Collector roadways 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 Bermuda Blvd. on the SLL, we will work with the affected property owners and their neighbors to find the best solution to address the speeding problem.

Response to f: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. This request for repair of Bermuda Blvd from Gordon Street to Davis Street has been added as a Citizen request, under tracking #78194 (and #7312). Project will not be included in the FY06 restoration program, due to demand exceeding budget. Information about the damage will be added to the database and will be considered in FY07. Selection information will be available December 2006.

Update to f: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. Project was not included in the FY06 restoration program, due to demand exceeding budget. The damage will be included in FY07 restoration program. Project selection information is available and citizen can contact me for the data.

Need and Recommendation 7. Repave Harper Street.

Harper Street needs to be repaved (between 20th Street and 22nd Street). This part of Harper Street is in bad condition.

The potholes have been filled in several times and this has been proven an ineffective remedy. More vehicles are using this street now, due to the new development on the six-lane highway.

Response: From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 622-1955. Harper Street from 20th Street to 22nd Street is to be repaved as part of the proposed resurfacing project in the neighborhood that is scheduled to start within 30 days (May 2006).

Update: From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 622-1955. The resurfacing of Harper Street and all neighboring streets was completed on May 4, 2006.

Need and Recommendation 10. Sidewalks on Clark Street.

The Palmetto Beach community needs sidewalks installed on Clark Street. This is a main street used by residents that take children to DeSoto Elementary School. There are many children who walk to school from the community. This would prevent any future accidents.

Response: Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. The location of Clark Street (south side) from 22nd Street to 30th Street was considered for the New Sidewalk Construction Program in FY06, but was not selected. The Work Orders 6752, 6753 and 6192 remain in the database for consideration again for the FY07 construction year. Selection information will be available in December 2006.

Update: Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. The Work Orders 6752, 6753 and 6192 remain in the database for consideration again for the FY08 construction year. Selection information will be available in December 2007.

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Need and Recommendation 17. Demolition of house.

Location in East Tampa: 3518 25th Street

This property is not maintained and presents a public danger and nuisance.

Response: From Bill Doherty, Deputy Director, Code Enforcement, 274-5562. The Code Enforcement Department will investigate and inspect the property at 3518 N. 25th Street to ensure it meets City of Tampa minimum code requirements.

Update: From Bill Doherty, Deputy Director, Code Enforcement, 274-5562. The Department of Code Enforcement has inspected the property at 3518 N. 25th street and found it to be in code compliance for the minimum standards established for vacant structures.