

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

Block Club: City-wide

Neighborhoods: City-wide

Boundaries: City-wide

Contact Person: All Block Club Captains

Need and Recommendation 1. To assist with the unnecessary trash and debris around the city, we are asking to have additional trash receptacles placed along major thoroughfares like 40th Street, 22nd Street, Busch Boulevard, Dale Mabry Highway, Florida Avenue, Fowler Avenue, Hillsborough Avenue, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Sligh Avenue, Nebraska Avenue and Westshore Boulevard.

Response: From Jim Pinkney, Division Manager, Clean City, 931-2143. Clean City will be implementing an Anti-Litter Campaign and Trash Receptacle Program, City-wide. This will be performed through partnerships, local merchants/businesses to help with sponsorships, and the involvement of Tampa Neighborhood Associations.

Update: From Jim Pinkney, Division Manager, Clean City, 931-2143. The Anti-Litter Campaign and Trash Receptacle Program recently was formed and is in progress city-wide.

Need and Recommendation 2. We understand and appreciate that there is a master plan that CPTED is following however, we are experiencing dark areas in some of the communities that have been upgraded. We request the city to purchase additional light poles and fixtures for the areas that have received the CPTED upgrades that still remain dark. We also request that the placement of additional light poles and fixtures be an ongoing component of the CPTED master plan. Residents seem to feel that some of the CPTED upgrades by themselves are insufficient and inadequate.

Response: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program is scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2007. Existing operational activities have suggested that all of the upgrades will not be completed until mid 2008. This is three (3) years earlier than originally planned. After the completion, the city will investigate opportunities for additional luminaries for the purposes of security. Our current focus is to ensure all communities first receive the benefit from the CPTED program. Budgetary and labor resources prevent a more aggressive schedule.

In the meantime, citizens requesting lighting services for the purpose of improving motorist travel, may contact the city via the Tampa Message Center. Waiting time is approximately 12 months. Motorists are encouraged to reduce their speed to ensure safe travel.

Need and Recommendation 3. Additional personnel is needed to handle the large amounts of illegal dumping within the inner city. Last year, the Tampa Police Department responded that there was insufficient funding to staff the personnel needed to assist with this issue. Therefore, we request funding for six (6) positions, and then we request the reinstatement of the Solid Waste Ranger position and the funds to sustain the personnel. We believe these positions should work solely with the Solid Waste Department and/or Parks and Recreation.

Response: From Jim Pinkney, Division Manager, Clean City, 931-2143. Illegal dumping is a large task at hand, funding and/or re-directing resources is a key component in order to make an immediate impact. Clean City will assist to address quick response time, as it pertains to neighborhood eye sores that are obvious and visible from the neighborhood leaders stand point.

Response: From Varghese Jacob, Solid Waste Administrative Chief, 348-1104. The solid waste ranger program was very successful towards alleviating illegal dumping and related environmental issues in the past. As sworn uniform police officers, these positions would report to Tampa Police Department (TPD) with support and coordination from the Solid Waste Department. As far the illegal dumping issue, this has to be handled by the TPD. Since the officers need to carry guns and have arrest powers, they have to be sworn police officers.

Update: From Major Robert J. Guidara, Tampa Police Department, District III, 276-3700. Two Illegal Waste Detective positions were created as of October 1, 2006 at the request of the East Tampa Community Revitalization Partnership with specialty funding by Tax Incremental Financing (TIF). These two detectives are assigned to investigate and enforce illegal dumping and waste violations. They work solely in the East Tampa area.

The detectives have been meeting with related agency officials, Hillsborough County Sheriff Environmental detectives, and area business owners to establish the parameters of their enforcement abilities. They have made one felony commercial dumping arrest at I-4 and 34th Street, six misdemeanor illegal dumping arrests (under 500 pounds), and removed over five tons of trash. Once the equipment and vehicles have been purchased, the detectives will complete Monthly Activity Reports with all statistical results. They are assigned to the District III detective squad under the supervision of Sergeant Gerry Clark, 276- 3722.

Need and Recommendation 4. We are asking the Mayor to approve the establishment of an on-going Transportation Task Force to proactively address current and future transportation needs. The intent of this request is to have neighborhoods informed and give citizens the opportunity to get involved and proactive with the designs and implementations of new roadways and the makeover of existing roadways.

Response: From Jean Dorzback, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. The city appreciates the proactive citizenry relative to current and future transportation needs. However, there is a concern about the availability of city staff to support another Task Force that may parallel the work being done for the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPO). The current and future transportation needs are dictated by the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan, on the Internet at <http://www.hillsboroughmpo.org/plans/long.htm> and the City of Tampa's Adopted Comprehensive Plan, at <http://www.plancom.org/>. All MPO meetings are open to the public and generally provide opportunities for the public to speak. Call (813-272-5940) for meeting times and locations, or you can find the information on the Internet at <http://www.hillsboroughmpo.org/meetings/agenda.htm>. As redevelopment occurs, affected area residents are notified by public postings. The agenda for City Council is also available at <http://www.tampagov.net>. For specific transportation concerns, citizens are asked to please use the City of Tampa Customer Service Center located on the Internet at <http://www.tampagov.net>. 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. The five-year fiscal budget of the 'Capital Improvement Projects Fund Summary' is also available on the city's website at <http://www.tampagov.net>, under the heading *Key Topics and Initiatives/Budget (FY2006) – People First*, and then click on Capital Improvement Budget, and select any link in the left margin for information.

Update: From Jean Dorzback, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. The FY07 budget which is now available for online viewing at http://www.tampagov.net/dept_budget/.

Response: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations, 274-7835. The Neighborhood and Community Relations Office will work with the community to organize an ongoing Citizen's Transportation Task Force and will again serve as the conduit of information between city staff and the Citizen's Transportation Task Force. 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 the Nebraska Avenue enhancement project.

Need and Recommendation 5. We encourage the funding and establishment of an additional Solid Waste Residential Disposal Site.

Response: From Varghese Jacob, Solid Waste Administrative Chief, 348-1104. An additional disposal site was discussed last year and has been approved as a Capital Improvement Project in the Solid Waste Department. The preliminary design of the facility has been finalized and under negotiations with the property owners. The construction is expected to start by the end of FY06 or beginning of FY07.

Update: From Varghese Jacob, Solid Waste Administrative Chief, 348-1104. Preliminary design work has completed by the consultant. Engineering work is scheduled to start by January.

Need and Recommendation 6. We are extremely excited about the planned revitalization of Nebraska Avenue. We are requesting that Signature Lighting and under ground utilities be placed along the Nebraska Avenue Corridor to reflect the new projected look of the avenue.

Response to Signature Lighting: From Jean Dorzback, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. As indicated in our prior responses, Nebraska Avenue is State Road 45 and under the sole jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The city has worked closely with FDOT on proposed enhancements for pedestrians as part of the upcoming resurfacing project. However, at the present time, there is no funding available to consider adding Signature Lighting for pedestrians. Nevertheless, the city will continue to seek funding through FDOT for pedestrian enhancements on Nebraska Avenue.

For information purposes, because of the rapid increase in the costs of roadway construction by as much as 44%, all agencies have had to 'tighten-their-belts' concerning project funds. The city's Parks and Recreation Department was planning to request in their upcoming budget the amount of \$384,000 towards the landscaping and beautification enhancements currently being proposed on Nebraska Avenue. Unfortunately, the FDOT has recently informed us that because of the unforeseen cost increases, the city may be asked to contribute an additional amount of \$658,000 towards the scheduled crosswalk and irrigation enhancements on Nebraska Avenue.

Response to under ground utilities: From Steve Hiza, Engineer III, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. For the past couple years, "under ground utilities" has become an issue with the pro-active citizenry residing over the entire state of Florida as a result of the frequency of hurricanes. The main concern seems to be electric service and the desire to see all of the existing electric lines put underground to minimize the loss of power for long periods after a hurricane. Other agencies, including FDOT and the Public Service Commission, have thoroughly reviewed the subject. Studies revealed that the cost is too prohibitive, and electric companies indicated that they would need a financial commitment from local, state, and federal agencies to accomplish this task. Studies also concluded that the cost of electrical service would increase dramatically as the work is done, and the work would take many years to complete. Even after the work is done, there is no guarantee that a loss of power would not occur from flooding or damage to substations.

The same cost prohibitive nature of the work would also hold true for other utilities such as telephone and cable television. As you may know, Verizon is currently putting their new facilities underground wherever possible, even though it may cost more than above ground installations.

Update: From Jean Dorzback, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Regardless of the city's pursuit of additional funds, there continues to be no funding available for adding Signature Lighting for pedestrians to the FDOT's resurfacing project. The FDOT will re-let the resurfacing project for bids on February 28, 2007. Construction is schedule to begin in May 2007.

The city's Parks and Recreation Department has the funds for the landscaping and irrigation enhancements to be installed, in the near future, on Nebraska Avenue (Hillsborough to Sligh). To-date the city has not been asked by the FDOT to contribute financially towards the proposed crosswalks south of Hillsborough Avenue. The city's Parks and Recreation Department will be requesting future funding for the landscape and irrigation enhancements on Nebraska Avenue (Kennedy to Hillsborough). Because the FDOT resurfacing project is scheduled to have a 15-month construction duration, the Parks and Recreation Department's landscape and irrigation enhancements on Nebraska Avenue (Kennedy to Hillsborough) will not be contracted for until the FDOT construction project is complete in late 2009.

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