

**CITY OF TAMPA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2007-2008  
December 12, 2007**

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**Block Club:** Area V

**Neighborhoods:** Parkview, Courier City/Oscawana, North Hyde Park, Old Hyde Park, Historic Hyde Park, New Suburb Beautiful, Bayshore Gardens, and Palma Ceia Park.

**Boundaries:** Interstate-275 (north); Bayshore Blvd. (south) Florida Avenue (east); MacDill Avenue (west).

**Chairperson:** Mr. Robert L. Allen  
301 N. Fremont Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33606  
Phone: 254-6844 (h)

**Contact Person:** Mr. Wesley Weissenburger  
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**Need and Recommendation 1. Stormwater runoff**

It is strongly recommended that the City of Tampa Stormwater Department address the stormwater runoff problems that exist in the communities of Benjamin 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> addition to West Tampa and the community of North Hyde Park.

The existing boundaries are: Kennedy Boulevard and Willow Avenue north to Cypress Street; West on Cypress Street to Rome Avenue; North on Rome Avenue to Laurel Street (I-275); West on Laurel Street to North Armenia Avenue; South on Armenia Avenue to West Kennedy Boulevard to Willow Avenue.

During the rainy season, the existing streets flood and present a major problem for anyone traveling in or out of the community. This flooding causes major damage and difficulties to neighborhood homes and businesses.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY** is the response from Mr. Michael Burwell, City of Tampa Stormwater Planning Supervisor, who advises that the streets for this project may need to be completely rebuilt, in order to accommodate additional curbing. Coordination with the City of Tampa Transportation Department is critical for the reconstruction efforts. Any grant that has been

**requested would be truly needed to implement the plan over the next three years.**

**Response:** From Michael J. Burwell, Planning and Environment Division, Stormwater Department, 274-7864. The Stormwater Department has hired a firm to develop a master drainage plan for this area. Recommendations will be available later this year and funding identified for design and construction starting next fiscal year.

**Update:** From Michael J. Burwell, Planning and Environment Division, Stormwater Department, 274-7864. We are pending recommendation from the consultation once information is provided will forward to the citizens.

## **Need and Recommendation 2. Traffic enforcement throughout the community**

**Traffic enforcement must improve for Albany Avenue and Fremont Avenue. Vehicles have been reported traveling in excess of 40 - 50 mph. This includes traffic flowing between Laurel Street and Kennedy Boulevard exceeding the 25 mph speed limit. It has been documented that most of the shortcut violators travel through our community from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and between 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We request all documentation in reference to studies made for future calming devices, studies made in the North Hyde Park community and any speeding location list that has occurred in the past year (2006) in our community be referred to the Civic Association of North Hyde Park.**

**This is a heavily populated community, which includes elderly, teenagers, and disabled individuals living in the North Hyde Park community. The speeding vehicles traveling through our streets place members of our community in great danger when crossing the street any place along North Fremont Avenue and North Albany Avenue.**

**Response:** From Major Robert J. Guidara, Police Department, 242-3899. Lieutenant Geraldine McNamara is the district supervisor for this area. She has assigned patrol officers to monitor and enforce traffic violations in this area. The Traffic Engineering division will have to respond to the request for all documentation of studies made for calming devices.

**Update:** From Major Robert J. Guidara, Police Department, 242-3899. The District I shift commander for the area has responded by assigning patrol officers to the listed area for traffic enforcement. The shift commander also has been assigned street units based on speeding complaints received in the District I office.

**Response:** From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. With advanced notification, public records (historic traffic studies) are available for review at 306 E Jackson St, Tampa, Florida 33602, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, East wing. Please note that requested copies of these studies are available for purchase at a price of \$0.15 per page plus tax. In order for Transportation Staff to research the public records and provided them in a timely manner, please call 274-8333 in advance with the specific locations or studies of concern.

This need mentions a documented speeding problem but does not include a request for speed studies per se. Even so, we researched our records and found that in 2005 Albany already had a documented speeding problem and was ranked 87 out of 156 on the SLL. At that time, we ordered a speed study for Fremont, but it did not quality and was not put on the SLL in 2005. Albany was re-studied a year later in September 2006 and is currently ranked 56 out of 83 on the SLL. However, Fremont was not studied last year. Therefore, speed studies have been requested this year for both Albany and Fremont from Kennedy Blvd. to Laurel Street. The estimated time of completion is approximately 12 weeks. After the speed studies are completed, our findings will be shared with you. If you have not received an update on the speed studies after this 12-week period, please contact us.

**Update:** From William Porth, Traffic Studies Technician, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. On Monday, June 4, 2007 a 24-hour speed and volume study was conducted on North Albany Street between West Kennedy Boulevard and West Laurel Street. The designated speed limit for this section of roadway is 25 mph. The resulting 85% percentile speed was 37 mph. Based on the results of this study, North Albany Street between West Kennedy Boulevard and West Laurel Street appears to be experiencing a speeding problem.

With this most recent speed study, North Albany Street between West Kennedy Boulevard and West Laurel Street is ranked 22 out of 88 local residential and Neighborhood Collector streets 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 North Albany Street between West Kennedy Boulevard and West Laurel Street on the SLL, we will work with the affected property owners and their neighbors to find the best solution to address the speeding problem.

On Thursday, August 23, 2007 a 24-hour speed and volume study was conducted on North Fremont Avenue between West Kennedy Boulevard and West Laurel Street. The designated speed limit for this section of roadway is 25 mph. The resulting 85% percentile speed was 32 mph. Based on the results of this study, North Fremont Avenue between West Kennedy Boulevard and West Laurel Street does not appear to be experiencing a speeding problem.

### **Need and Recommendation 3. Curbing throughout the community**

**Street curbing is requested for the following locations:**

- a. **West Carmen Street, between North Howard Avenue and North Rome Avenue**
- b. **North Fremont Avenue, between West Cypress Street and West Cass Street**
- c. **West Gray Street, between North Howard Avenue and North Rome Avenue**
- d. **West Lemon Street, between North Albany Avenue and North Armenia Avenue**
- e. **West Laurel Street, between North Albany Avenue and North Rome Avenue**
- f. **West Nassau Street, between North Fremont Avenue and North Rome Avenue**
- g. **West Grace Street, between North Albany Avenue and North Rome Avenue**

**Curbs are needed to assist in the prevention of soil erosion and to accommodate the new and the old sidewalks located in the North Hyde Park community. Curbing will enhance street parking in various neighborhoods.**

**Street curbing would also assist in the speed of stormwater drain-off and serve to keep debris from flowing into catch basins, causing them to become the catch-all for heavy debris flowing from various locations in the community.**

**Response:** From Michael J. Burwell, Planning and Environment Division, Stormwater Department, 274-7864. These streets were not designed to have curb and the construction of curb on them could lead to additional drainage problems. Runoff must be directed to inlet systems in a curbed street and these streets depend to some extent on the runoff being able to be absorbed by the surrounding grassed areas. Although curb can help to slow erosion, it can also speed up runoff and cause downstream problems. The Stormwater Department is in the process of conducting a study of the North Hyde Park drainage system and we will look into incorporating curbing into any improvements which are made. I will forward these locations to our consultant so they can be aware of the Block Club's concerns. It is doubtful curbing would enhance on-street parking, if constructed in this area it would often preclude on-street parking.

**Update:** From Michael J. Burwell, Planning and Environment Division, Stormwater Department, 274-7864. We are pending recommendation from the consultation once information is provided will forward to the citizens.