

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

Block Club: City-wide

Neighborhoods: City-wide

Boundaries: City-wide

Contact Person: All Block Club Captains

Need and Recommendation 1. Transportation Notification System

We are asking for the development of a better method of communication between the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Metropolitan Planning Organization, county and city officials, and neighborhoods. We request implementation of a notification process to inform residents and neighborhood leaders of project(s) scheduled for undertaking, prior to commencement of work. We also are requesting the development of a proactive approach to involve neighborhood leaders in project(s) that affect their neighborhoods.

Response: From Jean Dorzback, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. There are public access sites for all of the agencies identified above FDOT (www.dot.state.fl.us) and MPO (www.mpoac.org). The city Neighborhood and Community Relations Office can be found on the city's web page at www.tampgov.net under the heading "Inside City Government" and is the liaison between city officials and the neighborhoods. The neighborhoods need to watch for the projects in their areas and proactively contact the head agency about projects they are concerned with or would like to be kept notified of schedules.

Response: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations, 274-7835. The Neighborhood and Community Relations office will take the lead to receive information from the City of Tampa departments regarding projects impacting neighborhoods. Our office will send out communications via e-mail to the various neighborhood associations and community organizations as it relates to projects that affect their neighborhoods.

Update: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations, 274-7835. The Neighborhood and Community Relations office will continue to take the lead to receive information from the City of Tampa departments regarding projects impacting neighborhoods. Our office continually sends out communications via e-mail to the various neighborhood associations and community organizations as it relates to projects that affect their neighborhoods.

Need and Recommendation 2. Neighborhood Insurance for Events

We request that the city increase the availability of grant money to be used for insurance to allow neighborhoods to hold events in their community. The current structure for insurance severely limits neighborhoods from holding events and disallows for community/neighborhood functions. The current structure is cost prohibitive.

Response: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations, 274-7835. On March 2, 2007, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Office launched the new Matching Neighborhood Mini-grant program. This new initiative is to be used in conjunction with organized neighborhood associations' current programs to help unify their neighborhoods through increased communications, awareness and events as well as educational opportunities. For this pilot program, the city is allocating \$15,000 to be used to award matching grants to officially recognized neighborhood associations in increments up to \$750. Listed on the mini-grant application as one of the allowable projects is insurance for neighborhood events with the city.

Update: From Shannon Edge, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations, 274-7835. In October 2007, 26 neighborhood associations received checks for their successful mini-grant applications. Only one neighborhood association is applying their grant money towards special events insurance.

Need and Recommendation 3. Trash Receptacles

The CDBG Advisory Committee is excited about the creation of the Clean City Division and is very supportive of its efforts for a cleaner Tampa, starting with the Clean City Day on May 5th. We are very supportive of the anti-litter campaign and its efforts for a cleaner Tampa. We are requesting that the city match with CDBG funds, the Clean City Division's vision of providing adequate trash receptacles throughout the city to help make Tampa litter free. We are concerned with Tampa's image as being one of America's dirtiest cities and want to move Tampa into the top ten lists of the cleanest cities. We are requesting \$35,000 for 50 additional trash receptacles at a cost of \$700 each for the trash receptacle and its installation. We hope to have these trash receptacles installed throughout the city.

Response: From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 931-2143. Pending budget approval and funding generated through Friends of Clean City, 10 trash receptacles will be placed within the (5) Clean City Division districts – New Tampa, North, South, East and West.

Update: From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 931-2143. Clean City staff is currently evaluating the locations to determine actual placement for 10 trash receptacles within each District (New Tampa, North Tampa, East Tampa, West Tampa, and South Tampa) working in partnership with Tampa neighborhoods. TIF funding in East Tampa has been appropriated, we will implement March 29, 2008.

Need and Recommendation 4. Nebraska Avenue Lighting and Drainage

We are extremely excited about the proposed makeover of Nebraska Avenue, but are concerned about all the FDOT delays and cuts to this project. We are asking that the Clean City Division be actively involved in this project to ensure that enhanced landscaping remains a vital part of this project. We are continuing to request that Signature Lighting be placed along this corridor to reflect the new project look of the avenue as a grand gateway into the city. Due to concerns about possible flooding, due to Department of Transportation (DOT) cuts, we request that the City of Tampa examine plans for drainage along the Nebraska Avenue corridor, prior to project implementation. We are also asking that the FDOT be held responsible and accountable for any flooding concerns that may develop.

Response: From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 931-2143. For the enhanced landscaping, Clean City Division is partnering with Parks and Recreation in monitoring the FDOT contractor who is currently installing plant material on Nebraska Avenue. The project end date is sometime in August and there will be a 90 day warranty period provided by the contractor.

Update: From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 931-2143. With regards to enhanced landscaping on Nebraska Avenue, Clean City, Transportation and FDOT will need to meet to discuss the landscape design and maintenance. Based on Transportations evaluation and consideration of sidewalks being installed for FY08, this will determine if landscaping will be installed in conjunction with the needs assessment.

Response: From Michael J. Burwell, Planning and Environment Division, Stormwater Department, 274-7864. The project has been designed and let to contract on 02/28/07. Highway construction activities, which do include some limited drainage improvements, will begin within a few months.

Update: From Michael J. Burwell, Planning and Environment Division, Stormwater Department, 274-7864. As of 10/02/07, project construction is progressing as scheduled. Work currently being performed from Kennedy to south of Scott Street, from Scott Street to Columbus and from Columbus to Lake Street.

Response: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. The City of Tampa does not maintain or install street lights. The city leases the street lights from Tampa Electric Company, who is responsible for maintenance. If roadway conditions dictate the need for additional lights, the city will request TECO install them and the city will pay for them.

Nebraska Avenue is under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and they are responsible for paying TECO for the associated street lighting through an interlocal agreement with the city. The city attempted to negotiate with FDOT to increase their funding to include Signature Lighting on the project, but they declined to participate. However, there is an option to consider where the residents and business owners agree to payment of a special assessment fee for the revised system. They may select decorative lighting fixtures from Tampa Electric Company's product list. TECO's product list is restrictive and does not include the historic

luminaries as found in Ybor City, but traditional designs are available. The standard fixture used by TECO is cobraheads which are currently on Nebraska Avenue. This policy was established to avoid the general body of tax payers paying the significant cost differential of 4 to 1 between decorative and cobrahead systems.

Therefore, the community can receive a change-out from cobraheads to decorative fixtures by agreeing to payment of the special assessment fee. Payment would be required annually and would be equal to the prorated expense for a certain number of lights plus an additional 6% for administration costs. The special assessment would require fifty-one (51%) percent of the impacted community to agree to the fee. Details about the assessment program can be found in the Tampa Municipal Code Sec. 23-151 - Streetlights.

The city has made a few exceptions to this decorative lighting policy in areas that are considered "entertainment venues" that exhibit a benefit to the greater community. Bayshore Boulevard, Ybor City, Channelside, and parts of the SoHo districts have been approved in the past. A request to consider Nebraska Avenue as an "entertainment venue" should be made directly to the Department of Public Works, Transportation Manager, Roy LaMotte (813) 274-8048.

Update: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. In response to continued interest in signature lighting, the city is currently reviewing the entire streetlight program. Discussions with TECO are in the early stages, and the public will be contacted for their input. TECO does not offer specialty lighting through agreement with the city, and there is a limited number of options available for decorative lighting. As mentioned in my earlier response, the residents may get decorative lighting by participating in a special assessment program. The community will be charged the costs for the service on a perpetual basis. Be advised that TECO may also require a prorated payment of installation costs to be included in the perpetual assessment fee paid by the community. Additional options for decorative lighting may become available next year. Inquiries as to the progress of the discussions should be made directly to the new DPW Transportation Manager, Mr. Tony Rodriguez, 274-8333.

Need and Recommendation 5. Environmental Police Officers/City-wide Anti-Dumping Campaign

Currently, the City's Human Resource office is writing job descriptions for two (2) Environmental Police Officers, which may be used to monitor and write citations for illegal dumping in East Tampa. Although there is no measured success with the newly created positions, we, however, anticipate reduction in pollutants and waste in our community. In expectation of success, we would like to request the addition of four (4) more Environmental Police Officers for the Environmental Crimes Unit and for that unit to be extended city-wide. We realize that this request is expensive at this time, so in case Environmental Police Officers are not possible, we are asking the Clean City Division to actively develop and promote a campaign to address illegal dumping city-wide. This campaign could be coordinated with their anti-litter campaign.

Response: From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 931-2143. Based on the East Tampa (Pilot Program/funding) Clean City Division is working in conjunction with Tampa Police

Department to reduce illegal dumping activities within the East Tampa seven square mile radius. Funding will be a key issue to promote the city-wide anti-litter campaign.

Update: From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 931-2143. In order to support/address illegal dumping activity city-wide, Clean City, Solid Waste, Police, Tampa neighborhoods and other stakeholder will need to meet to discuss a city-wide plan which will require additional funding and resources.

Response: From Major Robert J. Guidara, Police Department, 242-3899. Two environmental police detective positions were created in October 2006. Since that time, the detectives have been issuing civil and criminal citations and making arrests for illegal dumping and other environmental violations. With the current spending freeze, there can be no additional environmental police officer positions at this time.

Update: From Major Robert J. Guidara, Police Department, 242-3899. Two environmental police detective positions were created in October 2006. Since that time, the detectives have been responsible for identifying and addressing illegal dumping in the East Tampa area. They have made 48 arrests for illegal dumping and overseen the removal of over 45 tons of debris from East Tampa. With the current spending freeze, there are no plans to hire more environmental detectives.

Need and Recommendation 6. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

This initiative is making it possible for the streetlights to shine brighter in our communities promoting more livable neighborhoods and safer streets in Tampa. The CPTED Master Plan is ahead of schedule; however, in the areas that have been upgraded, there are still dark areas. We request that the city purchase additional light poles and fixtures for the areas that have received the CPTED upgrades but which remain dark at this time. We also request that the placement of additional light poles and fixtures be an ongoing component of the CPTED Master Plan. Residents appreciate the upgrades, but feel that some of the upgrades by themselves are insufficient and inadequate.

Response: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. The CPTED program, otherwise known as "Bright Lights", 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. Even so, 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 limitations and labor shortages prevent an even 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 <http://www.tampagov.net>. Waiting time is approximately 12 months. Motorists are encouraged to reduce their speed to ensure safe travel.

Update: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. The CPTED program including upgrades is scheduled to be completed by the middle of 2008. TECO is currently working on the final phase of the program. Due to recent budget constraints, consideration for additional lighting in neighborhoods has been temporarily suspended.

Need and Recommendation 7. Gridlock along Gandy Boulevard

Request a traffic study of what it will take to resolve issues of gridlock along Gandy Boulevard, especially between Dale Mabry Highway and Westshore Boulevard. We recommend that the traffic light at the intersection of Lois Avenue and Gandy Boulevard be removed and installed at the intersection of Clark Street and Gandy Boulevard, due to the traffic issues concerned with that intersection. The entrance and exit ramps connected to the Crosstown Expressway also need to be examined. The exit ramp of the Crosstown Expressway onto westbound Gandy Boulevard needs to be especially looked at, since it is a major contributor to the gridlock along Gandy Boulevard. We also request examination of the Gandy Boulevard and MacDill Avenue intersection for possible improvements.

Response: From Jean Dorzback, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. The city is aware of the transportation issues in South Tampa. "Investing in Neighborhoods" is one of the Mayor's Strategic Areas. Current levels-of-service are being identified, deficiencies determined and an annual schedule for addressing needs and delivering service is being developed. This strategy will help the city plan and respond to community needs for municipal services more efficiently given its limited resources. It will also allow the city to plan for and implement large-scale multi-year community projects more effectively.

The 'Gandy Transportation Study' Power Point Presentation that was presented to City Council on 9/26/06 is available on the city's website at <http://www.tampagov.net>. Click on "Inside City Gov't" and then scroll to "Public Works Transportation" and click on "Gandy Study Area". The full study on the same website. At this location you will also find the Transportation Concurrency Exception Area (TCEA) Comprehensive Plan Overview that was given at a Transportation Planning Workshop.

At the presentation of the 'Gandy Transportation Study' to City Council on 9/26/06, reconfiguring South Westshore Blvd. into a possible 4-lane facility was also discussed as a possible future concept to facilitate north-south movement to/from the Port Tampa area.

Unfortunately, with the number of people that move to our city daily to set up residency, all parts of Tampa are growing as the city grows. The City Council and the Mayor are trying to allow limited growth, especially urban infill, to deter sprawl, while still maintaining the sense of community throughout the different areas of the city. Even though there are more and more people on the roads everyday, the city and our community partners such as Hillsborough County and the FDOT are finding ways to minimize congestion.

Some of the major corridors in South Tampa such as Dale Mabry Highway (SR 573), Gandy Boulevard (SR 600) west of Dale Mabry, and the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway (SR 618) are under the

jurisdiction of the State of Florida. The FDOT Public Information Officer, Marian Kris, can be contacted at 975-6202. The FDOT's 5-Year Work Program is available online at <http://www2.dot.state.fl.us/programdevelopmentoffice/wp/default.asp>.

We strongly believe that with our continued effort and cooperation with the local and state agencies the South Tampa area will continue to be a viable thriving community. We are all working to make this city a better place for all to live, work and play.

Response to traffic light relocation: From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 274-8105. Gandy Boulevard from Dale Mabry to Westshore is under the jurisdiction of FDOT. The city can not relocate signals on a state roadway like Gandy Blvd. I suggest the Neighborhood submit a request in writing to FDOT in order to elicit a written response. Address your request to Traffic Operations, FDOT District Seven, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa, Florida 33612-6456.

Response: From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 274-8105. The entrance and exit ramps connected to the Crosstown Expressway are under the auspices of the Hillsborough County Expressway Authority. The city can not perform a traffic study in these areas. I suggest the Neighborhood submit a request in writing to the Hillsborough County Expressway Authority. Address your request to Mr. Martin Stone, Director of Planning, 412 East Madison Street, Tampa, Florida 33602.

Response: From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 274-8105. Last year, the city installed a northbound left turn arrow phase which met warrants. We just conducted another left turn analysis at this intersection and nothing has changed.

Update: From Mike Scanlon, Traffic Signal Engineer, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 274-8105. FDOT has indicated that they have awarded a contract for Gandy and they anticipate starting construction sometime after the first of the year. Inquiries as to the status of the project can be made directly to FDOT by calling 975-6000.