

**CITY OF TAMPA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2008-2009
December 17, 2008**

Block Club: Area I

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

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

Chairperson: Ms. Rosalie Jones
4523 Ashmore Drive
Tampa, FL 33610-6818
Phone: (813) 626-1447 (h)
Cell: (813) 245-5916
Email: ladyrj56@aol.com

Submitted by: Betty J. Bell
3003 N. Star St.
Tampa, FL 33605
(813) 621-5761 (h)
Email: Bellsystem5@yahoo.com

1. NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Speed Tables (*Eligible*)

The community has requested speed tables for over 5 years in the vicinity of the Highland Pines Park. Since the closure of Columbus Dr. by I-4, there is more traffic on the below listed streets and speeds have increased as well.

Boundaries: I-4 S, 50th St. E., Lake Ave. N., and 40th St. W.

- a) 21st Ave. (between Dodge St. and 46th St.)
- b) 24th Ave (between 47th St. and 44th St.)
- c) 26th Ave. (between 50th St. and 46th St.)
- d) 46th St. (between 26th Ave. and 24th Ave.)
- e) 46th St. (between 21st Ave. and Columbus Dr.)

Response a.: From Bernadette Corey, Traffic Studies Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. The solar powered radar display speed signs, the upgraded street signs and street marking have been installed and are operational. Additionally, City of Tampa Contract Administration and East Tampa Community Redevelopment are working together and using Tax Increment Financing to develop additional safety enhancements that will have traffic calming benefits.

Response b.-e.: From Bernadette Corey, Traffic Studies Engineer, 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 158 locations City-wide with speeding problems on local residential streets, Neighborhood-Collector roadways, and the higher volume Collectors and Arterials. Of the 158 locations, 92 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, they are 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.

We will request speed studies on your behalf for 24th Ave (between 47th St and 44th St); and 26th Ave (between 50th St and 46th St); and 46th St (between 26th Ave and 24th Ave); and 46th St (between 21st Ave and Columbus Drive). 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 b.-e.: From Bernadette Corey, Traffic Studies Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. On Thursday, May 22, 2008, twenty-four hour speed and volume studies were conducted on East 24th Street between North 47th Street and North 44th Street; on East 26th Avenue between North 50th Street and North 46th Street; on North 46th Street between East 26th Avenue and East 24th Avenue; on North 46th Street between East Columbus Drive and East 21st Avenue. The designated speed limit for these sections of roadway is 25 mph.

The resulting 85% percentile speed was 30 – 33 mph on East 24th Street between North 47th Street and North 44th Street; 31 mph on East 26th Avenue between North 50th Street and North 46th Street; 29 mph on North 46th Street between East 26th

Avenue and East 24th Avenue; 29 – 30 mph on North 46th Street between East 21st Avenue and East Columbus Drive. Based on the results of these studies, these locations do not appear to be experiencing an excessive speeding situation.

2. **NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Extend Lighting Boundary: E. 50th St., W. 40th St, I-4 S., Lake Ave. N. (Non-Eligible)**

We have been requesting for two years that all streets within the boundary have extended lighting up to the E. Tampa communities. This would reduce crime and extend the East Tampa lighting plan.

Response: From Major Robert J. Guidara, Police Department, 242-3899. Spoke with Ms. Betty Bell about this request. She is specifically requesting the upgraded lighting fixtures that were first put in around N. 29th St. and E. Lake Ave. This will have to be addressed by the East Tampa Development Office.

Response: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works 274-8303. Streetlights are an essential part of the transportation system, and are provided for the safety of motorists and pedestrians as they are moving in the right-of-way. For this reason, the City recently completed a system-wide upgrade from 50W and 70W luminaries to 100-Watt fixtures. Plans are to start adding new light fixtures in FY2010 in areas that have low uniformity – or no illumination, contingent upon budgetary constraints. In the meantime, arrangements have already been made to add lighting fixtures in the East Tampa community during FY08.

Update: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works 274-8303. Light additions in the East Tampa Community should begin in February 2009 (East Tampa project was briefly suspended due to budget discussions.).

3. **NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Lighting, Maintenance, and Mile Markers Along Path: 40th W, 50th E., Lake Ave N., and I-4 S. (Eligible)**

The path needs to be lit because it is very dark when walking at 5 am before the sun rises and becomes unbearably hot. The path needs to be edged, trees over the path need to be trimmed, the grass and sand need to be removed, and mile markers need to be added.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Workout stations have been ordered and will be installed in this fiscal year. The trees have been trimmed, edging, grass, and sand are on-going maintenance and will be handled by staff. Mile markers are being looked at for various parks and Highland Pines will be included when a decision is made on establishing the mile markers. Lighting will be evaluated by staff.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The workout stations have been installed. The park is open from dawn to dusk and lighting will not be installed at this time. The trees have been trimmed; edging, grass, and sand are on-going maintenance and will be handled by staff. Mile

markers are still being looked at for various parks and Highland Pines will be included when a decision is made on establishing the mile markers.

4. NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Signage: I-4 S, 50th St. E., Lake Ave. N., and 40th St W. (Eligible)

Highland Park is located on 21st Ave between Dodge St. and 46th St. Children run back and forth, in and out of the park. It is an accident waiting to happen. A sign needs to be added on 21st Ave. between 40th St. W and Melbourne (41N) E. A sign is needed on 46th St. between 21st Ave N and Columbus Dr. S. because this is a school zone with heavy traffic. Parents drive too fast in this area. 46th St. is too narrow for the traffic flow in this area. A Highland Pines Community sign should be added on 40th St. and 21st Ave. (Melbourne E. duplicate).

Response: From Major Robert J. Guidara, Police Department, 242-3899. Ms. Bell's request is for more stop signs to slow traffic around the park and school. The police response has been to assign patrol units to this location during the morning hours as children walk to school. Patrol units have assisted with the traffic control and enforcement. The Traffic Unit from the Special Operations group has been assigned this complaint as well.

Response: From Bernadette Corey, Traffic Studies Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. The non-vehicular Traffic Signs "Playground" warning signs will be installed on the roads abutting and surrounding the park near the playground. Field reviews will be performed to determine the most feasible location to install the signs and work requests shall be submitted for installation of these warning signs. We anticipate the field reviews and work requests will be completed within the next twelve weeks.

With regard to the request for a community sign, the Highland Pines Neighborhood received two free neighborhood signs in 1992. A field review was performed on May 29, 2008 to validate the installation of the community signs. The field review indicated these signs are currently not installed. The Transportation Division will create work requests on behalf of the neighborhood to have the signs reinstalled at the preferred original locations. We anticipate the work requests will be completed within the next twelve weeks.

Update: From Bernadette Corey, Traffic Studies Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. Field reviews have been performed and work requests have been submitted to install "Playground" warning signs and the community sign for Highland Pines Neighborhood. Once work order is received installation will follow.

5. NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Clean Boundaries: I-4 S, Lake Ave. N, 50th St. E, and 40th St. W. (Eligible)

Clean City needs to trim the bushes and pick up the trash on the main streets, such as 21st Ave., in the East Tampa community, including Highland Pines and Grant Park.

Response: From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 307-5525. This area is part of the routine 30/60-day maintenance plan, which is outlined in our core services. Major corridors are maintain every 30 days and residential areas every 60 days. We will coordinate with the Code Enforcement Department for homeowners' participation and homeowners' responsibility for maintaining their rights-of-way.

6. NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Expansion: 50th St. E, 40th St. W, Lake Ave. N, and I-4 S. (Eligible)

The Highland Pines Recreation Center located at 4505 21st Ave does not have enough space for community and children usage at this time. There is plenty of land in the park for the expansion of the facility.

Picnic sheds and grills should be added. We have asked for the last 5 years for sheds and grills for families who have picnics and parties outside. We have asked for toddler swings for many years. Grandparents are raising children.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Highland Pines Playground Activity Center was completed in 2007. The department will evaluate the need to expand the facility. Staff will evaluate the need for additional grills and install where appropriate.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department evaluated the site for new picnic shelters and determined they are not needed. The picnic tables and grills are in good shape and will be replaced on an as needed basis.

7. NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Paving: 50th St. E, 40th St. W, Lake Ave. N, and I-4 S. (Eligible)

All of the streets in the Highland Pines area need to be resurfaced. 42nd St. and Arrow St. have been resurfaced and we are wondering why these are the only two.

Response: From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 622-1955. All the remaining streets are scheduled to receive micro surfacing within the next 6 months.

Update: From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Transportation Division, Department of Public Works, 622-1955. Utility Capital Improvement Project (UCAP) has placed a hold on this area. We will not be able to go forth with our project until UCAP completes their water and sewer project. Please contact me periodically to verify the status of the hold.

8. NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Sidewalks: All of the streets in Highland Pines (Eligible)

For years we have been concerned with losing a little yard space and after reading and becoming more aware of what makes a community, we have changed our attitude. We need sidewalks throughout the entire neighborhood.

Response: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. We welcome the opportunity to serve the Highland Pines community. Our records indicate only one project has been requested on behalf of the community. Specifically, sidewalk construction has been requested on 21st between 43rd and 46th street. Please feel free to contact the Sidewalk Section of the Department of Public Works at 274-8303 with additional locations that may warrant consideration. The Sidewalk Program is very "Citizen-Motivated". In other words, we consider locations that are expressly requested by the community.

Update: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. The sidewalk was built with FY2005 funding, under contract PW5266.

9. **NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Beautification: Shrubbery on Fairway** (*Eligible*)

Highland Pines is in a revitalization stage at this time and needs to refurbish its surrounding areas and shrubbery.

Response: From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 307-5525. We will work with the neighborhood to identify needs for landscape enhancements. We recommend using landscape materials in the parkways and medians rather than the rights-of-way.

Update: From Jim Pinkney, Manager, Clean City Division, 307-5525. Clean City will work with the East Tampa Partnership subcommittee to identify landscaping/beautification needs within Highland Pines to improve the aesthetics in the neighborhood.