

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

Block Club: Area VII

Neighborhoods: Lowry Park, North Lowry Park, Sulphur Springs, Forest Hills, Blue Sink/Curiosity Creek, North Tampa Community, University Square, Hillsborough Heights, Terrace Park, and Temple Crest.

New Tampa-Brookfield, Deer Creek, Cypress Green, Espirit, Fox Chase, Heather Downs, Hampshire, Hampton on the Green, Heritage Oaks, Hunter's Green, Lakeside, Laurel Ridge, Lockwood Links, Magnolia Chase, Nathan's Court, Oakcrest, Osprey Point, Pinnacle, Quail Creek, Richmond Place, Stonebridge, Tampa Palms, Waterforde, Wynstone.

Boundaries: Fowler Avenue (north); Sligh Avenue (south); City limits (east); City Limits/Armenia Avenue (west) and New Tampa Annexation-Pasco County Line (north); Fletcher Avenue (south); City Limits (east); City Limits (west).

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

The regulatory signs on N. Orleans Avenue post 25 mph speed limit however most drivers exceed the limit. The traffic on N. Rome Avenue which is also excessive should be slowed due to the frequent travel by neighborhood children and adults who walk to the park, local schools, bus stops, stores and churches.

There are no stop signs for traffic between Sligh Avenue (south) to Waters Avenue (north) Speed tables will help slow traffic making it safer for pedestrians along this main access road to Lowry Park Zoo.

Rivershore Drive runs east to west and is often used as a cut through between N. Boulevard (west) and N. Florida Avenue (east). The speed limit is 35 mph but rarely observed. There should be traffic calming devices along this road to also ensure pedestrians safety.

Locations:

- a) Speed tables are needed on N. Orleans Avenue from Sligh Avenue (south) to Waters Avenue (north).
- b) Speeds tables are needed on N. Rome Avenue between Sligh Avenue (south) and Waters Avenue (north).
- c) Speed tables are needed on North Boulevard from Sligh Avenue (south) to Waters Avenue (north).
- d) Speed tables are needed on Rivershore Drive, east and west, between N. Boulevard (west) and N. Florida Avenue (east).

Response: 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. 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.

- a) North Orleans Avenue from West Kirby Street to West Waters Avenue was studied in August 2007 and found to have a documented speeding problem and was added to the SLL. It is currently ranked 10th on the SLL. The area from West Kirby Street to West Sligh Avenue on North Orleans Avenue has not recently been studied and we will request a speed study on your behalf and the estimated time of completion is approximately 12 weeks. After the speed study is completed, our findings will be shared with you. If you have not received an update on the speed study after this 12 week period, please contact us.

- b) North Rome Avenue between Sligh Avenue to Waters Avenue is a Collector road. As stated above collector roads do not qualify for traffic calming and must therefore rely on traffic enforcement as provided by the Tampa Police Department. Their non-emergency contact number for traffic issues is 276-3471.
- c) North Boulevard between Sligh Avenue to Waters Avenue is a Collector road. As stated above, collector roads do not qualify for traffic calming and must therefore rely on traffic enforcement as provided by the Tampa Police Department. Their non-emergency contact number for traffic issues is 276-3471.
- d) North River Shore Drive from W. Kirby Street to North Florida Avenue has not been studied recently in 2008 or 2007. Therefore, we will request speed studies on your behalf and the estimated time of completion is approximately 12 weeks. After the speed study is completed, our findings will be shared with you. If you have not received an update on the speed study after this 12 week period, please contact us.

Update: From Bernadette Corey, Traffic Studies Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8333. On Thursday May 29th, 2008, twenty-four hour speed and volume studies were conducted on North Orleans Avenue from West Kirby Street to West Sligh Avenue. The designated speed limit for this section of roadway is 25 mph. The resulting 85% percentile speed was 31 to 33 mph. Based on the results of these studies; North Orleans Avenue from West Kirby Street to West Sligh Avenue does not appear to be experiencing an excessive speeding situation.

On Thursday May 29th, 2008, twenty-four hour speed and volume studies were conducted on North River Shore Drive from West Kirby Street to North Florida Avenue. The designated speed limit for this section of roadway is 25 mph. The resulting 85% percentile speed was 30 to 33 mph. Based on the results of these studies, North River Shore Drive from West Kirby Street to North Florida Avenue does not appear to be experiencing an excessive speeding situation.

Because North Orleans Avenue between West Kirby Street and West Waters Avenue has a documented speeding problem and is currently ranked 6th on the SLL, we will submitted the site for Fiscal Year 2009 traffic calming funding. If the submitted sites are approved by the administration, a departmental review process is implemented.

Tampa Fire Rescue, the Tampa Police Department, the Transportation Division and the Wastewater and Water Departments are among those requested to review the proposed traffic calming sites for possible project conflict(s). If a department or division response indicates a conflict with a particular site, the site is dropped from the current years proposed plan. If the sites are clear (No Conflict), they move on to the next stage which is field data collection for plan development.

From this point, appropriate traffic calming measures are selected and plans are completed to 90%. Residential meetings are held to share information with the residents as to why their road is being selected for traffic calming. Other Traffic Calming Program requirements are discussed at this time which includes a required consensus development, the construction process and the project's cost.

Depending on residential feedback and the consensus development (the support for or lack of), the traffic calming plans may be adjusted and then finalized. If a majority consensus was attained, those sites would be submitted for construction scheduling.

As the above described process unfolds, the Transportation Division will work with the affected property owners and their neighbors to address the speeding problem.

2. NEED & RECOMMENDATION: Sidewalks on N. Rome Avenue & N. Orleans Avenue (Eligible)

Rome Avenue and N. Orleans Avenue are both heavily traveled by children and adults walking to the local stores, schools and churches in our area. There are also families walking with young children and other residents who walk dogs and jog to the park.

Locations:

- a) Sidewalks are needed on N. Rome Avenue located between Sligh Avenue (south) and Waters Avenue (north). This location is west of the Lowry Park Zoo.
- b) Sidewalks are needed on N. Orleans Avenue between Sligh Avenue (south) to Waters Avenue (north)

Response: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303.

- a) Sidewalk construction along North Rome Avenue between Waters and Sligh is expected to begin in April 2008. Only one block will be omitted from the schedule due to the need for drainage design. Plans are to complete the block in FY09.
- b) Sidewalk construction along N. Orleans between Sligh and Waters will be considered in FY2010. Location is already posted to the database.

Update: From Jan Washington, Engineer, Transportation Planning, Department of Public Works, 274-8303. Sidewalk construction along North Rome Avenue was completed. As informed, one block was not completed due to drainage. No further construction is planned.