



# Center City

## Neighborhood Input

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## Old West Tampa

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InVision Tampa – July 2012



**INVISION TAMPA**  
People. Place. Progress.



## Where Did We Meet and Tour?

**4/28/2012 | Ybor Heights/VM Ybor**  
Ragan Park: 1200 East Lake Avenue

**4/28/2012 | Tampa Heights**  
Robles Park: 3305 North Avon Avenue

**5/2/2012 | Central Business District**  
John F Germany Library: 900 North Ashley Drive

**5/5/2012 | West Tampa**  
MLK Recreation Complex: 2300 North Oregon Avenue

**5/10/2012 | Channel District**  
Florida Aquarium: 701 Channelside Drive

**5/10/2012 | North Hyde Park**  
Mt. Olive AME Church: 1902 West LaSalle Street

**5/19/2012 | Historic Ybor City**  
Hampton Inn and Suites: 1301 East 7th Avenue

**5/19/2012 | Nebraska and Hillsborough Avenues Corridors**  
Seminole Heights Branch Library: 4711 North Central Avenue

## Neighborhood Workshops and Walking Tours

An integral part of the InVision Tampa plan is to incorporate citizen ideas, issues, and comments into the Center City Master Plan. To capture this insight, eight Neighborhood Design Workshops were held in each of the neighborhood areas around the center city. The workshops were held on weekdays in the early evening and on weekends in the mid-day. Activities were geared to a variety of input methods, including a walking tour of the neighborhood where community members could point to specific “on the ground” issues and opportunities, and a follow-up meeting with group exercises to discuss site observations, values, and opportunities for change in the community.

Each meeting opened with a brief review of the project and introductions. Those participating in the walk disembarked for the neighborhood walking tour. The group followed a one-mile route intended to view a cross-section of the neighborhood and to view specific issue examples. The walk lasted approximately 1 ½ hours. Upon returning to the meeting location, attendees were greeted with light refreshments and a break. Not all attendees participated in the walking portion of the meeting.

To begin the workshop, the Project Team gave a presentation about the study covering the goals, schedule, and methods for public interaction. Following the presentation, a series of exercises were held. The attendees were divided into smaller, equally-sized groups.

In the initial activity, each member was asked to write down on sticky notes three things they valued about their neighborhood, and three things they wanted to change about it. Project Team members then categorized the notes on either side of the room.

The next exercises had participants working with table top maps. On the first map, participants placed sticker dots to denote special areas, yellow dots to indicate a place, or an example of, something they valued and blue dots for to indicate a place, or an example of, something they would like to change. The second map exercise had participants draw lines between their neighborhood and a place or area where they would like to be connected.







## Neighborhood Workshop: Old West Tampa

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### Where Did We Meet and Tour?

**5/5/2012 | West Tampa**  
MLK Recreation Complex: 2300 North Oregon Avenue

Participant's main value is their community; they expressed the strong sense of community within the area as well as their value of educational opportunities. The history and architecture within the area are held in high regard. The central location and access to highways are also valued among attendees. Lastly, they value the new businesses that have stimulated the local economy.

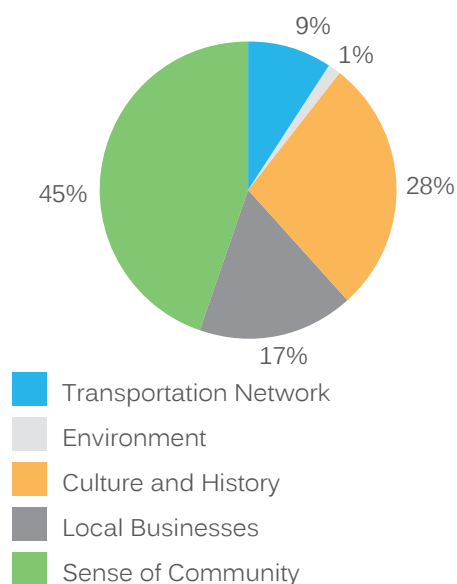
Attendees would like to see improvements with crime and redevelopment of homes and public housing, specifically North Boulevard Homes. Attendees would like to see the street barriers removed for crime prevention purposes. Participants would like to see an increase in economic development by incorporating more grocery stores, retail, and job opportunities.





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**What do you value most about your community?** | Workshop Responses - Old West Tampa:



**A sampling of specific responses:**

**Transportation Network:**

Walkability  
Access to highways

**Environment:**

Waterfront

**Culture and History:**

History - buildings and community  
Architecture  
Cigar factories

**Local Businesses:**

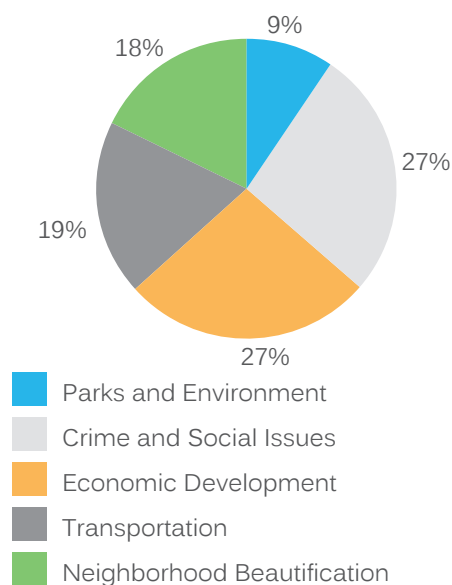
New/local businesses  
Affordable

**Sense of Community:**

Schools  
Neighborhood organizations  
Diversity

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**What would you most like to change about your community?** | Workshop Responses - Old West Tampa:



**A sampling of specific responses:**

**Parks and Environment:**

More activities for children  
Open waterfront

**Crime and Social Issues:**

Less crime and drug deals  
More security  
Negative stereotype

**Economic Development:**

Redevelop/relocate public housing - North Boulevard Homes  
More amenities - grocery and retail  
Opportunities for local businesses

**Transportation:**

Remove dead-end streets  
Walkability

**Neighborhood Beautification:**

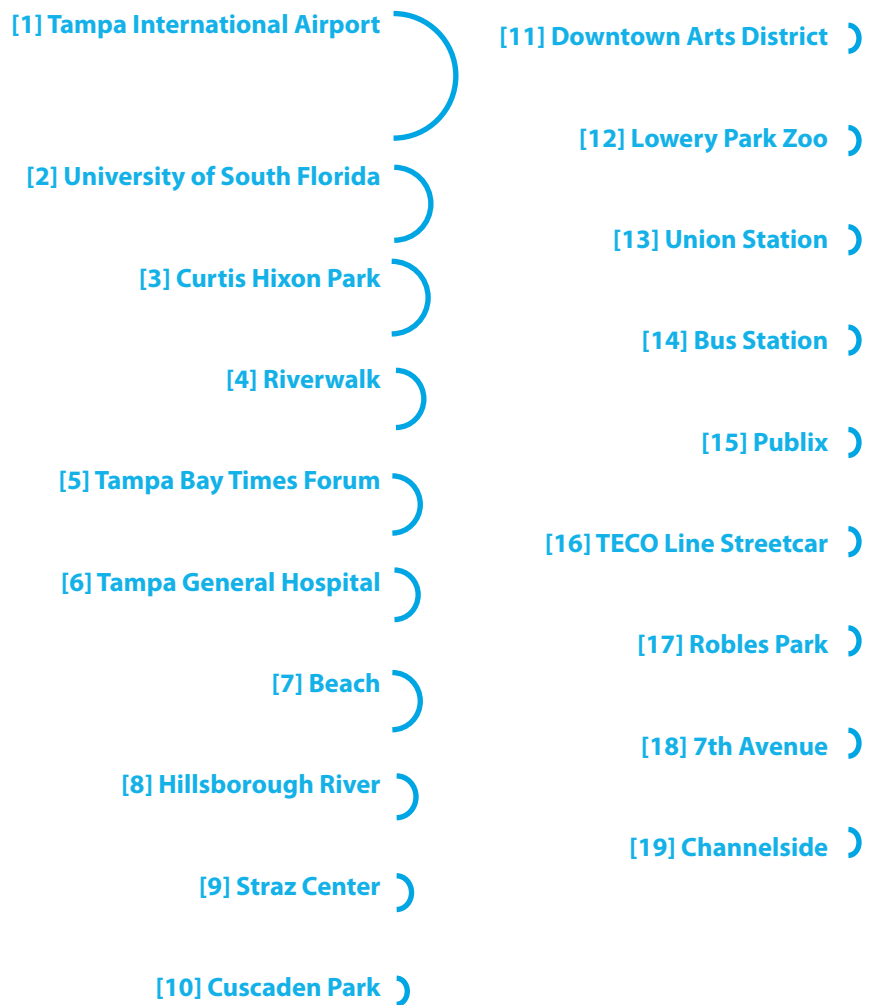
Improve landscaping and street lighting  
More property maintenance



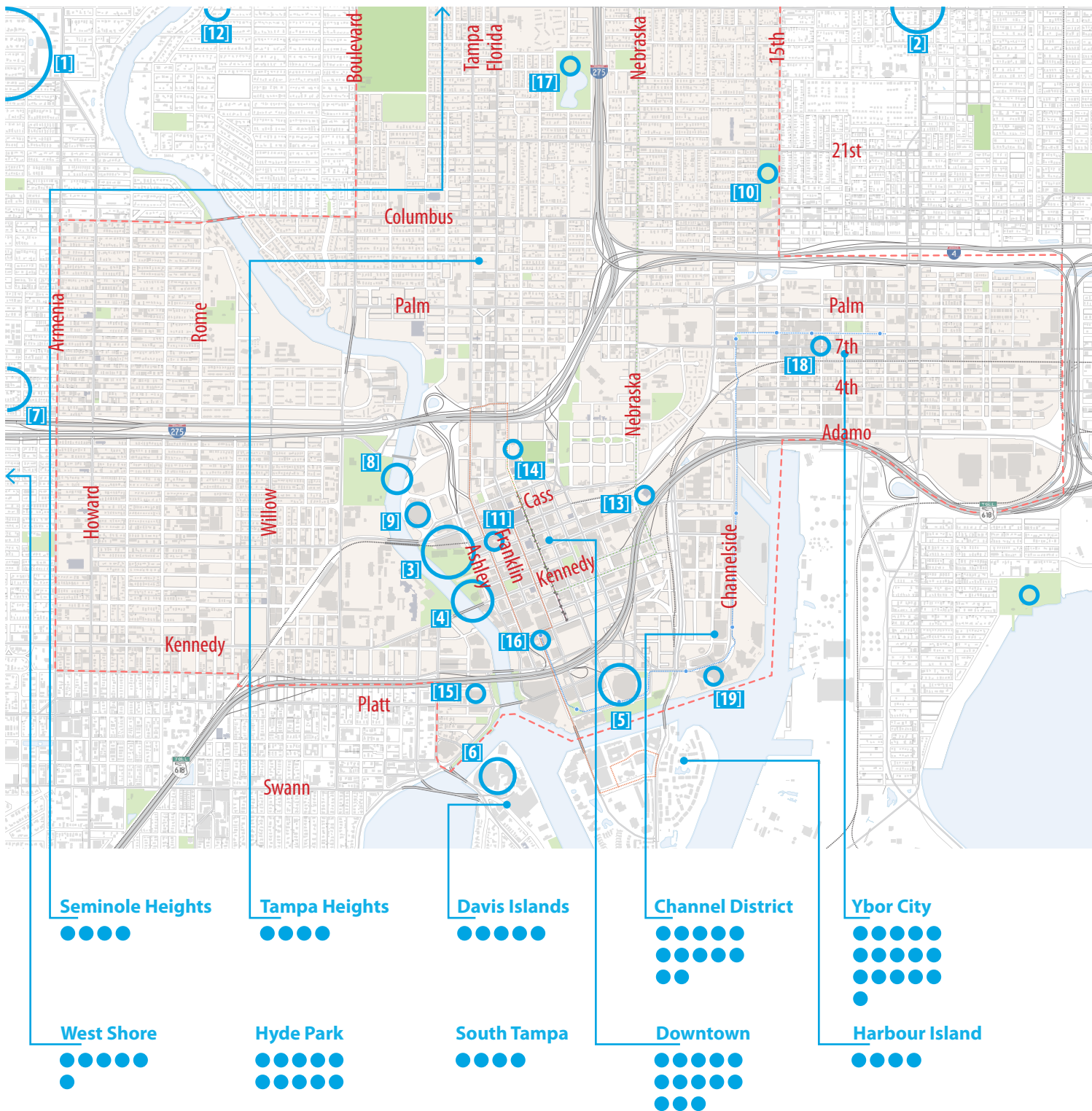
## Preferred Destinations and Connections

During each neighborhood workshop, the design team asked participants to draw lines to other neighborhoods and specific destinations that they either frequent or would like to obtain better access to. Many of these areas were other popular neighborhoods (e.g., Channelside, Hyde Park/South Tampa, and Ybor City), entertainment areas (e.g., parks and beaches), or other locations within the region (e.g., Tampa International Airport). Based on responses from all neighborhoods, the most popular individual destinations are shown below and most popular neighborhoods or districts are indicated on the page at right.

Places I Want to be Connected With | Neighborhood Workshops Feedback:









# West Tampa Meeting Comments- 5/5/2012

## Exercise 1: List of What You Value and What You Would Like to See Changed

What do you value most about your community?

Main Topics	Comments	Total
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walkability (2)</li> <li>• Access to highway/expressway (3)</li> <li>• Brick streets</li> </ul>	6
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfront</li> </ul>	1
Culture/Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture</li> <li>• Restaurants</li> <li>• Cigar factories</li> <li>• Art Mural</li> <li>• Architecture</li> <li>• History – buildings and community (13)</li> </ul>	18
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homes for low income</li> <li>• New/local businesses (5)</li> <li>• Mixed Use Patterns</li> <li>• Business District (2)</li> <li>• Urban Design/layout</li> <li>• Affordable</li> </ul>	11
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location – to goods and services (4)</li> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• MLK Recreation Center</li> <li>• Zoning enforcement</li> <li>• Post office</li> <li>• Sense of community (13)</li> <li>• Security</li> <li>• Neighborhood organizations</li> <li>• Schools (5)</li> </ul>	29

What would you most like to change about your community...in 15 years?

Main Topics	Comments	Total
Culture/Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More activities for children</li> <li>• Access to water events</li> <li>• Centro Espanol</li> </ul>	3
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education awareness and job skills training</li> <li>• [Stop] drug dealers</li> <li>• [More] security (2)</li> <li>• [Less] crime – drug deals (7)</li> <li>• [More respect for neighborhood]</li> </ul>	20

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transient community</li> <li>• Negative stereotype (2)</li> <li>• [More] diversity</li> <li>• [Improve] resource center (2)</li> <li>• Loose dogs</li> <li>• More Pride</li> </ul>	
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location of low income housing</li> <li>• [More] businesses (2)</li> <li>• [Improve] economy – job opportunity (2)</li> <li>• Opportunities for local businesses</li> <li>• Preserve historic buildings</li> <li>• Clean up vacant lots (2)</li> <li>• Redevelop homes (2)</li> <li>• More amenities – grocery and retail</li> <li>• Redevelop public housing – North Boulevard Homes (5)</li> <li>• Relocate North Boulevard Homes (2)</li> <li>• More homeowners, less renters</li> </ul>	20
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open waterfront (4)</li> </ul>	4
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Parking solution (2)</li> <li>• Walkability (2)</li> <li>• Minimize traffic volumes</li> <li>• [Remove] dead end streets (7)</li> <li>• Two-way traffic on Howard Avenue and Armenia Street</li> </ul>	14
Beautification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [More] property maintenance (3)</li> <li>• [Improve] landscape (4)</li> <li>• Restore Main Street facades (2)</li> <li>• Improve street lighting (4)</li> </ul>	13

## Exercise 2: Show What You Value and What You Would Like To See Changed

### Things you value

Main Topics	Comments	Total
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith based entities</li> <li>• Community center (2)</li> <li>• Parks and recreation (2)</li> <li>• Schools – Blake and Dunbar (4)</li> <li>• MLK Recreation Center</li> <li>• Convenience store</li> <li>• La Casa Sierra Meat Market</li> <li>• Post office</li> </ul>	13
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Business District on Main Street</li> <li>• Vacant Department Of Transportation lot</li> <li>• Howard Avenue and Main Street asset</li> <li>• Redevelopment of homes</li> <li>• North Boulevard Homes</li> <li>• Home Ownership Center</li> </ul>	6



Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks (2)</li> <li>• Rey Park (2)</li> <li>• River - brings life, residents, and businesses (5)</li> <li>• Riverwalk- extend to Rick's restaurant</li> </ul>	10
Culture/Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation</li> <li>• Restaurants – Mama Mias, Rick's, Jamaican (5)</li> <li>• Plaza and art mural</li> <li>• North Boulevard neighborhood/MLK history (3)</li> <li>• Art Studio</li> <li>• Art Museum</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• Clock tower</li> <li>• El Centro Espanol – historic site</li> </ul>	15
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main Street is the gateway to West Tampa- façade program, historic park, main thoroughfare</li> </ul>	1

### Things you would like to change

Main Topics	Comments	Total
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Less] city parking</li> <li>• Move Blake High School to Main Street</li> <li>• Improve gateways</li> <li>• [Fewer] parking garages</li> <li>• Resurface Columbus Boulevard</li> <li>• Parking - eliminate buildings behind commercial frontage on Howard Avenue</li> <li>• [Replace] two-way traffic on Howard Avenue</li> <li>• [Add] large structured parking at the Armory with electric shuttle cars to SOHO and NOHO</li> <li>• Expand bridge to incorporate a bicycle lane</li> <li>• More pedestrian friendly</li> <li>• Pedestrian victorian lighting</li> </ul>	11
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure improvements</li> <li>• Redevelop for more retail</li> <li>• Turn warehouse on Main Street and Fremont Avenue into Technical School</li> <li>• Business District Development - building Oregon Avenue and Union Street</li> <li>• Retail/economic development</li> <li>• Develop vacant lots (2)</li> <li>• City Property - near river</li> <li>• Water department needs to relocate or downsize</li> <li>• Business development/parking (2)</li> <li>• Redevelopment</li> <li>• Unused theater building - Spruce Street and Howard Avenue</li> <li>• Historic buildings need rehabilitation</li> <li>• Redevelop blighted neighborhood/apartments (2)</li> <li>• Redevelop North Boulevard Homes (3)</li> </ul>	22

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove condensed low income housing</li> <li>• Poor city planning on prime real estate</li> <li>• Public housing poor location</li> </ul>	
Culture/Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [More] restaurants</li> <li>• Relocate recreation fields – closer to school (2)</li> </ul>	3
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add noise wall from I-275</li> <li>• [Improve] environment/storm drainage</li> <li>• River not used</li> <li>• Access to river (5)</li> <li>• River - not well kept</li> <li>• Connect east Riverwalk to west walkway</li> </ul>	10
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Add] youth activity center - south of Main Street at Delaware Avenue</li> <li>• [Add] resource center - south of Main Street and Willow Avenue</li> <li>• Open ball fields for events - unit community</li> <li>• Do not close post office</li> <li>• More programs for children at MLK Sports Complex</li> <li>• Remove park – [drug trafficking]</li> <li>• [Remove] road barriers at Fremont Avenue, Pine Street, Cherry Street, and Walnut Street – drug trafficking (3)</li> <li>• [Remove] convenience store at Albany Avenue and Pine Street - crime</li> <li>• [Remove] liquor store at Albany Avenue and Main Street</li> <li>• [Remove] Occupy Tampa</li> <li>• Zanzibar [bar – crime]</li> <li>• [Improve] Safety</li> </ul>	14

### Exercise 3: Show Desired Neighborhood Connections

#### Connections from West Tampa

Main Topics	Comments
Cities/Neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hyde Park Village (3)</li> <li>• Downtown (3)</li> <li>• Ybor City (3)</li> <li>• South Tampa</li> <li>• West Shore</li> <li>• Bay Shore</li> <li>• St Petersburg</li> <li>• Tampa Bay</li> <li>• Channelside</li> <li>• SOHO</li> <li>• NOHO</li> </ul>
Entertainment Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Channelside Drive</li> <li>• Curtis Hixon Park</li> <li>• Downtown events</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Football stadium</li> <li>• McFarland Park</li> <li>• Tampa Bay Times Forum</li> </ul>
Specific Destinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armory Lance Development via Howard Avenue/Armenia Avenue</li> <li>• Tampa International Airport (3)</li> <li>• University of South Florida (2)</li> <li>• Bus Station (3)</li> <li>• Hospitals – Tampa General (3)</li> <li>• Grocery store</li> <li>• North Boulevard Homes</li> <li>• Florida State Fair</li> <li>• Kennedy Boulevard</li> <li>• Howard Avenue</li> <li>• New 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue</li> <li>• West Tampa Drive</li> <li>• Hillsborough River (2)</li> </ul>
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Main Street</li> <li>• Improve transit</li> <li>• Connect across river - West Tampa Drive to Tampa Heights</li> </ul>