

Questions and Answers from Virtual Tampa Town Hall Council District 5

Q: Where can I find more details about the SE Seminole Heights project?

A: Mr. Bishop, info on SE Seminole Heights project can be found at <https://seminoleheightsstormwater.com/>

Q: I have been involved in the City Center planning process, but will the Community have a say in what actual departments move to the Center. Many of us in the immediate area have a lot of concerns about fleet services moving to this location. I also have concerns about whether the improvements from the related traffic study will be completed before the center opens to the public. The roads around the center are very constrained and speed is an immediate issue.

A: The transportation study is expected to include a list of projects that may have different timelines for implementation. This includes some that can be implemented before the building opens, some that may be programmed in the near-term after building opening, and projects to consider as long-term needs.

Q: With the All For Transportation referendum having been overturned, does the city now have a sufficient method of supplying funds for transit and infrastructure projects going forward?

A: The City's Mobility Department has traditionally received funding through different sources including approximately \$9 million annually from Local Option Gas Tax and various other sources such as federal and state grant funding and Multimodal Impact fees from developers. Without the penny surtax, the City will continue to leverage every possible grant or other funding source. The surtax would have provided a substantial local match, often required for large grants, which would have supported larger infrastructure projects.

Q: First, we are thankful for the new Infill Housing in the Sulphur Springs area and the additional Fire Rescue vehicle. But, I have yet to hear any mention of project(s) in the Sulphur Springs area. The storm water drainage project would be an asset for cleaning up the river as there are several/many storm water discharges into the river. Cleaning out the drainage ditches would also help. Any current ideas, plans, projects for this area?

A: SW Ops will look in to scheduling some maintenance work on the area ditches that need work. We will look to have this complete as soon as practical. We are currently limiting the ditch grading activities due to all of the wetness. It has been difficult to obtain sod since the sod fields are under water. Therefore we can't provide an exact time frame. Operations does not have any other projects planned. - Bryan Rodger

Q: Refund on 1% transportation tax.

A: The City's Mobility Department has traditionally received funding through different sources including approximately \$9 million annually from Local Option Gas Tax and various other sources such as federal and state grant funding and Multimodal Impact fees from developers. Without the penny surtax, the City will continue to leverage every possible grant or other funding source. The surtax would have provided a substantial local match, often required for large grants, which would have supported larger infrastructure projects.

Q: Status of 11th St. water and street improvement to have been started in June then September now when

A: Regarding contract 18-C-00039 Channel District Improvements: The 11th Street water and street improvements are on-hold by the CRA pending development of their Strategic Action Plan and additional utility work to be accomplished on Twiggs Street. Work on 11th Street is TBD.

Q: When can we expect to get sidewalks in SE Seminole Height on Chelsea from 22nd Street on the south side of Chelsea to Tampa Street? Also, why does the Street signs on Chelsea on the west side of 22nd indicate Street and on the East side near 34th the Street side indicates Chelsea is a Avenue?

A: New Sidewalk Request for Chelsea Street: The Mobility Department has logged this sidewalk request. Historically, approximately \$700,000 per year has been budgeted for sidewalk construction and maintenance activities. This has generally supported the construction of approximately one mile of new sidewalk per year. With approximately 1,300 miles of sidewalk gaps Citywide, the needs are great. The City is proposing to double the annual sidewalk budget for Fiscal Year 2022, and new sidewalks are prioritized near schools and parks, along Collector and Arterial roads, near transit stops, and along the City's High Injury Network. TR Ops will look in to the discrepancy and correct it accordingly. We expect to have the correction complete in the next few weeks.
- Bryan Rodger"

Q: Will the City be looking at Trash and Debris storm water centrifical intercepters that remove trash and debris before it enters the river? SWFMD(Swiftmud) in the past provided cooperative funding to put a few along the river as a demonstration project. What were the findings?

A: The City of Tampa utilizes Nutrient-Separating Baffle Boxes in order to capture trash, debris, and sediment from runoff before making its way into our waterbodies. Our first baffle box was installed in 2003 and we currently have forty-seven (47) baffle boxes around the City. These baffle boxes are an accepted water quality treatment method for cooperatively funded stormwater projects with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). There are numerous baffle boxes located upstream of existing stormwater outfalls along the Hillsborough River. We will soon be installing two more as part of our upcoming SE Seminole Heights Flood Relief project. Additionally, that project will also include a large outfall structure that will collect trash, debris, and sediment as well as provide energy dissipation to accommodate a clean and more quiescent outflow into the Hillsborough River within the Ignacio Haya Linear Park.

Q: I did not hear anyone discuss the FDOT project for 50th street from the toll road to USF area.

A: <https://www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/56thstreetcorridor/project-details/>

Q: Info needed for Lake Roberta and Hampton Terrace. The city has spent about \$500,000 dollars on improvements at Lake Roberta. That's a lot of money and unfortunately the anticipated benefits have not occurred. The dredging did not relieve the quick flooding events on the NE side of the lake. The new baffle boxes at Clifton near Nebraska are not the correct ones. There is no information regarding when this will be addressed. 4 storm drains were added to Clifton and Nebraska and the water misses those drains and dumps directly into the lake. Videos have been sent to the city.

A: Ms. White, the City does not oversee FDOT projects. You can find more information on the 50th Street project by contacting FDOT at [813-975-6000](tel:813-975-6000). Regarding Lake Roberta flooding, the City is moving into the construction phase of the SE Seminole Heights Flood Relief project which, when complete, will effectively reduce flood stages in Lake Roberta. The recently completed dredging was undertaken because soil borings obtained in the lake indicated a significant deposit of silt in the pond which leads to a degradation of the water quality. Silt buildup in a lake or pond over time reduces the permanent pool volume of the waterbody which is relied upon to improve water quality. The City continues to work to reduce the trash condition entering Lake Roberta from Nebraska Avenue. The recently installed baffle box is equipped with trash baskets to intercept trash that enters the storm sewer system through upstream curb inlets. However, since it is common for inlets on steep grades to experience bypass flow, the City will continue to investigate the degree to which bypass flow may be carrying trash past the baffle box and overland directly into the lake. We will report back to the neighborhood once we have investigated this condition and developed a plan to address the trash migration.

Q: What is the status of the Bermuda Blvd Seawall and Complete Streets project? It was in the General Budget for years then moved to the list of All for Transportation Surtax projects, but that funding is no longer available. The project includes replacement of the McKay Bay seawall and multiuse trail, part of the Green ARTery. It is a major priority for the Palmetto Beach Community Association. Thank you. Jennifer Willman

A: The Bermuda Blvd Seawall and Complete Streets project remains unfunded after the loss of Surtax funding. However, it remains a priority project. Currently, the City is looking at grant opportunities. Also, the City is planning to re-engage the property owners of the submerged lands to see if acquisition would be possible.

Q: How is it determined the areas in East Tampa that will be resurfaced?

A: The City maintains a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) Assessment. This assessment which was just updated determines what neighborhoods should be prioritized across the City. Specifically, for East Tampa, the East Tampa CRA has provided additional funding to resurface neighborhoods within its boundaries. These neighborhoods were also prioritized though the PCI assessment.

Q: We need infrastructure to be assessed in the Live Oaks area. Particularly on E. Idlewild between 39th & 40th Street. The street gets potholes frequently and gets patched. It is very bumpy and needs to be completely paved.

A: Ms. Althea Wynn, as part of the Civic Center on Hanna project we will be reviewing the broader area between Sligh Ave, 40th St, Nebraska Ave and Hillsborough Ave to study traffic flow and identify opportunities to improve mobility through projects like sidewalks, minor resurfacing, stop signs, etc. We will consider your request towards the same. Please feel free to engage with us on www.tampa.gov/city-center

Q: There are several areas within Live Oaks Square that needs repaving and sidewalks need attention, such as repairing sidewalks.

A: Per the previous response, The City maintains a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) Assessment. This assessment which was just updated determines what neighborhoods should be prioritized across the City. Specifically, for East Tampa, the East Tampa CRA has provided additional funding to resurface neighborhoods within its boundaries. These neighborhoods were also prioritized though the PCI assessment.

For any immediate sidewalk maintenance requests, please complete this form or call [\(813\) 274-3101](tel:8132743101)

https://apps.tampagov.net/appl_customer_service_center/form.asp?strServiceID=382

Q: Just wondering how these projects are considered. I know some money comes from the East Tampa CRA Action Plan. However, Live Oaks Square does not fall within the boundaries so how do we go about getting assistance or attention to our area? I am being asked these types of questions from neighbors and not clear of the process. I am interested in knowing how and what is the process. Is it an application process?

A: That would be through our standard PCI programming. There is no application process. However, maintenance requests can be generated through the City's

Customer Service Center. It never hurts to generate these requests. Sometimes, even if a major project cannot be started, we may be able to do some remedial patching to bridge the gap until a project can be programmed. They can be reached at [813-274-3101](tel:813-274-3101) or https://apps.tampagov.net/appl_customer_service_center/

Q: How do we get the bridge on 40th Street cleaned? I have been asked by neighbors to get it pressure washed. What is the process of getting the bridge pressure washed on 40th Street?

A: We will refer this to our bridge maintenance group. You may also generate a request through our Customer Service Center. This is always a good recommendation. Our customer service team is very responsive. They can be reached at [813-274-3101](tel:813-274-3101) or https://apps.tampagov.net/appl_customer_service_center/

Q: Is there a plan to connect the parks with a dedicated bike-only lane?

A: Please see the website below for information on our Green ARTery project. This was identified in the Walk/Bike Plan for the City of Tampa, Phase 5. This project was funded and approved in the FY20 Transportation Surtax plan. However, with the recent Supreme Court's decision to overturn the referendum, it is no longer funded. However, it does remain a priority project. <http://www.planhillsborough.org/walkbike-plan-for-the-city-of-tampa/>

Q: Given the unaffordable housing market in Tampa, has the city planning department considered zoning updates such as the reduction of parking minimums, density caps, and height limits to allow for a greater increase in housing supply to counterbalance rising housing costs?

A: Yes. All of these ideas are being reviewed and considered for implementation to assist with housing affordability

Q: There is a 10-year master plan for Parks and Recreation. Is there a Master Plan relating to Housing and Development for District 5 and more directly East Tampa?

A: There is a Comprehensive Plan that governs development across the City available here <http://www.planhillsborough.org/city-of-tampa-2040-comprehensive-plan/> An

update and review of this plan is underway; it will include a focus on housing needs for all districts across the City

Q: E wrap program ask for annual income from 2020 some people that work for Hillsborough County school district (Teachers) have not worked over the summer of 2021 part of May, June, July but it is not considered and once you put in last year's annual income you are disqualified. What do you do to be considered for this year income if you are about to be evicted because you can't pay your rent? Any help is appreciated!

A: There is a help line you can call to speak to an application counselor that should be able to help navigation your application. Please contact them here. ERAP Call Center at [\(866\) 375-9114](tel:8663759114) to speak with a representative. The call center is open from 9 AM until 5 PM Monday through Friday. The web site with more info is here. <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/residents/public-safety/rapid-response-recovery-assistance-program-r3/r3-program>. If you need further assistance, please feel free to contact me directly. Carole.post@tampagov.net

Q: No mention in planning presentation about the West River Walk or Rome Yard that are also located in District 5?

A: The Rome Yard project is moving forward well. We are currently working with the developer team to formalize the documents needed to finalize the development plans, the ground lease, and the process to engage the community benefits agreement. There may be some preliminary site work beginning in the fall. The community will be hearing more information about the project in the coming months.

Q: What is the city's plan on holding the East Tampa business owners accountable for allowing large gatherings on their property that often leads to gun violence?

A: TPD has and will continue to work with CODE and Legal to hold these businesses accountable through abatement and now also through alcohol permits. We have an upcoming hearing on an alcohol permit next week where the business is facing a 30 day suspension. We have also obtained compliance through formal notice letters to businesses.

Q: Thank you TPD for keeping us safe, is there a way routine police roll calls are held in East Tampa?

A: Absolutely, this can be accomplished by contacting the division commander who will schedule the roll calls. The names and phone numbers of all the commanders were provided in the ppt. This can also be accomplished by making a request via our customer service center, which is on our website.

Q: We on the West Tampa CRA CAC have worked hard to develop programs to help clean up Main Street in hopes of bringing back economic growth. However, the past few weeks we have seen a rise in trash and crime, reversing the trend we had in this area. This makes it difficult to bring new investments in the area. How is the City going to help us?

A: The police department is aware of the concerns in this area and they are actively working with the community and the key stakeholders to reduce crime and improve the quality of life.

Q: The West Tampa CRA CAC has approved Cameras on Main Street at all intersections between Howard and Boulevard. Only 3 cameras have been installed to date. When can we expect all cameras to be installed so we can capture some of the crimes and criminal activity being committed in our slum and blighted community? So, we can help TPD solve some of the crimes being committed in our West Tampa area. Thanks.

A: Mr. Robinson we are working with Jose Neno and TECO to facilitate the install of the additional cameras. We will reach out to you on the details.

Q: Regarding on ongoing safety concern for many Tampa Heights and downtown residents, is the police chief aware of the "gang" of upwards of 20 off-road vehicles riding through TH, downtown, and up and down Bayshore and what can be done? They have become a problem, riding up sidewalks, down the middle turning lanes and even into oncoming traffic. I have seen it at least twice a week, every week and heard from many other residents about the same issue.

A: We have addressed several complaints and increased enforcement efforts on this issue; however, it is difficult to catch this activity in action. We would request the

immediate notification via our non-emergency line – [813-231-6130](tel:813-231-6130) or if an emergency via 911.