

Frequently Asked Questions

How will this project improve our neighborhood?

The Lamb Canal Rehabilitation and Flood Relief project will help with South Tampa's flooding problem, reducing street and property flooding due to rain events up to the 100-year storm, as well as reducing the impact of your day-to-day activities during the rainy season. Flood levels along the canal and ditch will also be reduced by construction of this project.

Water quality improvements including a significant reduction in bank erosion which causes soil sedimentation in Lake Dundee and downstream waters will also result from this project. It will also help improve the City's infrastructure and sustainability for the future.

Will this project reduce flooding from storm surge associated with tropical storms?

Because of the low topography in this neighborhood and the inability to practically restrict backflow of storm surge into the drainage system, this project will not address flooding due to storm surge. However, computer modeling suggests that there will be no increase in flood levels due to storm surge.

What options are being considered for the canal improvements?

As part of the 30% design plans, two options are being considered for the Lamb Canal Rehabilitation and Flood Relief Project. Option 1 will consist of an open conveyance system constructed as a 14-foot-wide stone-façade vertical-wall canal system. Option 2 includes a closed (underground) system consisting of a double box-culvert conveyance for much of the length of the canal.

How is the Lamb Canal Rehabilitation project funded?

The Lamb Canal Rehabilitation project is funded by the City of Tampa Stormwater Capital Improvement Fee. The City has received a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Program – Resilient Florida Program for this project.

What environmental impacts will construction have?

Both the open and closed design options require trees be removed from the canal right-of-way. We may find that some trees may be saved with the slight reduction of trenching required for the box culvert option. By minimizing the work in the Emerson ditch right-of-way, we hope to save many of the trees that would have been lost to the previous design. To the extent desired by adjacent owners, the City will replace tree loss with the project under the general guidelines of the City's Tree-Mendous Tampa Tree program. Additionally, trees that are removed that cannot be mitigated within the neighborhood will be mitigated by providing the appropriate funding to the City's tree bank to provide for planting of trees elsewhere in the City.

How will fence installation and replacement along the right-of-way be addressed?

Fencing of the rights-of-way will be required for safety reasons if the open canal option is pursued. However, fencing is not required for the underground box culvert option as there are no significant public safety concerns. Private fences along the corridor that encroach into the right-of-way will need to be removed and will be replaced in-kind at the right-of-way line. Should other private fences need to be removed due to stability or other reasons, they too will be replaced in-kind at the right-of-way line. Temporary fencing will be provided when required or requested.

How will pools and other structures adjacent to or near the right-of-way be protected?

Pools and other adjacent structures on private property will be protected during construction. The contractor will be required to protect structures and other improvements adjacent to, but outside of, the work zone. Vibration monitoring will also be required to ensure that construction vibration does not damage nearby structures adjacent to the drainage rights-of-way.

How has the public been engaged on this project?

Keeping the public informed and engaged on this project has been a priority of the City's Stormwater Engineering Division Team. Residents that abut the canal and ditch rights-of-way will be the most affected by this project and have been given the opportunity to meet with the design team to provide input and share concerns for consideration throughout the project design process. Staff will continue to be available to meet with individual residents to discuss this project should the need arise.