



Southeast Seminole Heights Flooding Relief Project Transportation Improvements - Questions & Answers July 30, 2020

Why is the City doing transportation improvements with a flooding relief project?

During construction of the Southeast Seminole Heights Flooding Relief project, crews will excavate much of Central Avenue from Osborne to Hillsborough to install the new stormwater conveyance system. This stretch of Central Avenue will be rebuilt, so it makes sense to add improvements that meet the City's mobility goals and improve safety for all modes of transportation. Doing the work in conjunction with the flooding relief components will save money and minimize disruption to the community.

What improvements are planned for Central Avenue?

The improvements include:

- On-street parking in front of residences;
- Dedicated bicycle lanes on both sides of Central Avenue;
- A signed, dedicated pick-up/drop-off lane for Hillsborough High;
- Reduced speed from Osborne Avenue to Hillsborough Avenue;
- An enhanced crosswalk at Wilder with flashing beacons to improve pedestrian safety;
- Enhanced, brick sidewalk connectors and stop bars at cross streets to alert motorists, and;
- Slightly wider Central Avenue pavement between Giddens Avenue and Hillsborough Avenue to accommodate the left turn lane and bicycle lanes.

Learn more on our [Central Avenue Improvements web page](#).

How were these improvements chosen?

The City of Tampa selected improvements based on recommendations in the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Heights Mobility Study, scheduled work planned for the area and the City's own mobility goals. In addition, the City considered input from a public survey of Seminole Heights residents, business owners and the Hillsborough High community.

When will these improvements be made?

The exact construction schedule for the Southeast Seminole Heights Flooding Relief Project has not yet been determined. Construction is tentatively set to begin sometime between late 2020 and early 2021, starting at the Hillsborough River and moving east. Multiple crews may work simultaneously in different locations. Construction of the overall project will take about two and a half years. The project team will keep residents informed once a detailed construction schedule is determined.

Why aren't you extending improvements north of Hillsborough Avenue?

FDOT plans to construct mobility improvements on Central Avenue north of Hillsborough in the 2021-2022 timeframe.

Have you looked at building a separate pick up and drop off lane on Hillsborough High School property instead of using Central Avenue?

The project team understands that residents are concerned about safety and traffic associated with pick up and drop off at Hillsborough High School. To address this concern, our plan includes a clearly marked, dedicated lane for this purpose. Our construction boundary on Central Avenue does not extend beyond the City's right-of-way, so any additional car circle would need to be created by the School District of Hillsborough County.

Will the speed limit on Central Avenue change?

Yes. The current speed limit on Central Avenue is 35 miles per hour, but will be reduced to 25 miles per hour from Osborne Avenue to Hillsborough Avenue.

Will construction go forward as planned given the COVID-19 pandemic? How are you going to keep construction workers and residents safe from exposure to COVID-19?

Public works and utility projects, like flood conveyance systems and drinking water lines, are essential to maintaining public health and safety. This work is proceeding on schedule.

How will you address traffic at Hillsborough Avenue?

Central Avenue will be widened by 2 feet to the east from Hillsborough Avenue to Giddens Avenue to accommodate the left turn lane and bicycle lanes.

We parked on the street before. Now that there are painted parking lines, will cars be ticketed if they are parked outside the lines?

No. The City is creating these parking spaces to help alleviate traffic congestion and motorist confusion along Central Avenue.