



Southeast Seminole Heights Flooding Relief Project Open House Meeting - Summary

Monday, Sept. 13, 2021

Date: Monday, Sept. 13, 2021
Time: 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
Notice: Door hangers to approximately 50 properties on Crest Avenue
Location: Seminole Heights Branch Library, 4711 Central Ave., Tampa, FL 33603-3905
Residents in Attendance: 14

Project team members were available at this open house meeting to discuss the project's purpose, how construction and restoration will occur on Crest Avenue, what to expect during construction, construction-related impacts and schedule.

Summary of Resident Input

Following is a summary of comments provided to the project team, either in person or via comment form:

- A homeowner questioned the impact to trees; contractor showed that the trees in question will be marked for protection.
- There is an elderly neighbor, second house from the west end of Crest on the south side of the road, who uses a walker to get to and from her vehicle. She may need assistance if/when her driveway is blocked.
- Thank you for the detailed explanation. We were concerned by accessibility of (homeowner's) scooter/wheelchair ramp van.
- Several residents asked questions about the timeline, which was explained using the display boards.
- Keep it moving.
- Looks legit!
- As a family that has lived on Crest for over 20 years, this is a welcome relief. My property is at the end of Crest and River Boulevard, and I am flooded at every storm.

In addition to providing input on the Seminole Heights Flooding Relief Project, residents in attendance also asked questions. Answers to those questions are also provided.

Questions and Answers

Are you putting in sidewalks?

No. The final restoration includes curbs, gutters, curb inlets to capture stormwater and new asphalt.

Are you installing everything all at once?

No. The project team must make multiple passes on Crest Avenue as existing utilities (sewer main and water main) must be relocated. Crews will first install a new sewer main on the south side of Crest, followed by a new sewer main on the north side of Crest. Once all homes are connected to new sewer mains, then crews can remove the existing sewer main running down the center of Crest Avenue and install the new 7-foot by 4-foot stormwater box culvert. After the box culvert is installed, a new 6-inch diameter water main will be installed on the north side of Crest to replace the existing 2-inch diameter water main.

Will there be any above-ground features, like valves?

The project team confirmed this information after the meeting. During the open house, staff said there would not be any above-ground valves, but upon further examination, there is one above-ground valve planned. It will be on Crest Avenue, in an enclosure, approximately 10 feet from the Florida Avenue right-of-way. Additionally, three fire hydrants will be installed on Crest Avenue. This will improve fire protection for residents on Crest and could have a positive impact on homeowners' insurance premiums.

Will the downhill slope of Crest toward the Hillsborough River be changed?

No. Crest will still slope downward toward the river. However, crews will install curb inlets to capture storm water as it travels downhill. The curb inlets are connected to the new box culvert that is being installed underneath Crest Avenue.

What happens to residents who have pavers in their front yards to accommodate parking parallel to the road? Will the new curb prevent such parking?

Staff explained that pavers would be removed, stockpiled and replaced similar to their current position. Staff also said that the new curbs will be mountable, so parking could still occur. Staff advised the resident that a sanitary sewer manhole is planned for the area in question, and it would be matched as close as possible to the elevation of the pavers.

Will trees along the route be protected? Will they be trimmed?

Staff discussed trees on a site-specific basis. Most trees along Crest Avenue will be protected but many trees near or overhanging the road will require heavy trimming and root pruning.

Can you explain the impacts to driveway access?

Because of the new sewer mains, water main and the large box culvert to be installed on Crest Avenue, residents can expect their driveways to be blocked multiple times for up to a few days each time. The entire construction operation is about 70-90 feet long, including an excavated trench and heavy equipment. It can take 3-4 days to pass a typical Crest Avenue lot. We know that mobility needs differ from household to household, so the contractor will work with individual residents to accommodate special access and transportation needs, including medical

services or wheelchair accessibility. The contractor will have a supervisor in the field who is dedicated to safe access for residents and will work with households on a daily basis.

Why must Crest Avenue be closed? Will one lane remain open?

Construction on Crest will not be passable to ensure safety. Although crews may be working on one side of the road or the other, heavy equipment and machinery will be needed on the other side to carry away dirt or to bring in segments of pipe and culvert. Residents will need to enter or exit Crest Avenue away from construction, either toward Highland Avenue and Florida Avenue, or toward North River Boulevard, depending on where crews are working.

Will Highland Avenue be blocked?

Yes. Construction on Crest proceeds across Highland Avenue. However, Highland will not be closed to through-traffic until necessary, and once it is closed, local residents can still access Crest Avenue and other neighborhood streets. Trucks and other through-traffic will be detoured.

Will other roads in Seminole Heights be paved as part of this project?

No, this project's scope of work only entails resurfacing roads that have been impacted by utility installation.

Will you be moving power poles as part of this project?

The contractor will have to move a few power poles slightly, by perhaps a few feet, to accommodate the replacement or addition of stormwater curb inlets.