



## Southeast Seminole Heights Flooding Relief Project Virtual Community Meeting - Summary

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021

- Date:** Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021
- Time:** 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
- Notice:**
- Direct mail postcard to 971 addresses with 963 confirmed delivered;
  - City of Tampa social media posts (Nextdoor Sept. 1; Facebook and Twitter Sept. 1, Sept. 8, Sept. 9, Sept. 12, and Sept. 15);
  - Social media posts by Southeast Seminole Heights Civic Association (August 31, Sept. 1, Sept. 15 and Sept. 21); South Seminole Heights Civic Association (Sept. 11); and Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association (Sept. 15 and Sept. 16);
  - Eighteen (18) yard signs placed at strategic locations along the route;
  - Hand-delivered postcards to approximately 15 businesses on Aug. 30, 2021.
- Location:** Zoom Virtual Meeting
- Residents in Attendance:** 50

Project team members started the meeting by welcoming residents. After apologizing for inadvertently scheduling the meeting on the start of Yom Kippur, meeting facilitator Michelle Robinson of Dialogue Public Relations introduced Tom Wilson of Wade Trim, Will Stock of David Nelson Construction, and Jeff DeBosier, City of Tampa project manager and Stormwater Division Director. The project team then gave a PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of the project, the project benefits, what to expect during construction and how the project team will keep residents and businesses informed during construction.

After the presentation, attendees were invited to join one of three breakout rooms, divided as follows, to ask questions specific to their neighborhoods or interests:

- East of I-275
- West of I-275
- Central Avenue Transportation Improvements

Residents were advised that they could change breakout rooms as desired. Following is a summary of input and questions received by breakout room.

## **Breakout Room - East of I-275**

Max Reynolds of David Nelson Construction and Michelle Robinson staffed this breakout room. Mr. Reynolds answered a number of address-specific questions, sharing his screen to show construction drawings when applicable. Additional questions and answers included:

### ***Where there are no existing curbs and gutters, will you be adding them?***

Where stormwater culverts or pipelines are being installed, curbs and gutters will be added when the road is restored. The curb will be modified Type A mountable curb. In areas with only water line replacement, asphalt will be replaced from edge to edge with no additional improvements.

### ***On East Caracas, between 10th and 11th, can you describe the work that is being done?***

The stormwater portion of the project ends with a large structure in the intersection of North 11<sup>th</sup> Street. A 60-inch culvert will be installed on Caracas, west of North 11<sup>th</sup> Street, and four new stormwater inlets will be installed in the intersection of Caracas and North 11<sup>th</sup> Street to alleviate flooding.

### ***Will this project remove the red-lining designation on properties in this area?***

The City of Tampa's Stormwater Advisory List includes properties that experience localized flooding problems or have other problems associated with stormwater management. A property may be on the "red line" list for a variety of reasons, including being in a flood prone area, needing an easement or specific building/design requirements. If the property is in Southeast Seminole Heights and is red-lined due to localized flooding, this project may remove that designation. Once the project is completed, the City will conduct a review and revise its Stormwater Advisory List accordingly.

### ***There is a project at Hampton Terrace near Lake Roberta that is also adding baffle boxes and storm drains. Is this project part of that project?***

No.

### ***Are there impacts on East Ellicott between Taliaferro and Nebraska Avenue?***

No. There is no work on East Ellicott west of Nebraska.

### ***Some of the areas where you are installing only water lines have flooding issues as well. Will you be installing curbs and gutters?***

In areas where only water lines are being replaced, asphalt will be replaced from edge to edge with no additional improvements. If curbs exist in the area where water lines are being installed and they are disturbed by construction, they will be replaced.

### ***Can you describe what is happening at 10th and Curtis? What will 10th Street restoration be like during construction and restoration? Will 10<sup>th</sup> Street be widened?***

A new 30-inch and 42-inch stormwater pipeline and new sanitary sewer will be installed on 10<sup>th</sup> Street from East Chelsea Street north to East Ellicott Street. At the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and East Curtis Street, two stormwater inlets will be installed at the intersection to collect stormwater. When 10<sup>th</sup> Street is restored, curbs and gutters will be installed as well as new asphalt. The road will not be widened.

***Will the work at the intersection of East Caracas Street and North 12th Street be done consecutively or simultaneously? If it's not simultaneously, how much time would pass between the two different efforts?***

The exact schedule and sequence of work for that area is not yet known. At that location, the water line may need to be relocated to accommodate the stormwater construction. As soon as the schedule is firmed up, the public information team will post an update to the project web page.

***On what side of Caracas will the water line work occur between 11th and 12th?***

The water line will be removed from the north side of the road and will be replaced on the north side. With the new 6-inch diameter water line, crews will also install fire hydrants in the neighborhood to improve fire protection.

***It looks like there is major work planned for the intersections of Caracas and 11th and Caracas and 12th. Will those intersections be closed at the same time?***

The exact schedule and sequence of work for that area is not yet known, but the project team will be mindful of residents' neighborhood access needs. We won't close both intersections if it creates a problem for residents getting to and from their homes. As soon as the schedule is firmed up, the public information team will post an update to the project web page.

***Please explain what is happening on East Caracas at the intersection of Taliaferro. How long with the operation take? Can you provide assurances on the schedule?***

A subcontractor will excavate a pit at the intersection of Taliaferro and Caracas. Equipment in this area will be used to tunnel under I-275 to install a 72-inch diameter stormwater pipeline. The intersection will be closed for approximately three months during this operation. Micro-tunneling is currently scheduled to begin in mid-December and will be completed in the March or April 2022 timeframe. The contractor will work as quickly as possible, but it's impossible to give precise start and end dates as unknown underground conditions could delay the operation.

***How long with Taliaferro be closed for the micro-tunneling operation?***

Taliaferro will be closed for at least three months at Caracas. The closure at Taliaferro will from Wilder Avenue on the north to Ellicott Street on the south.

***Will a pipeline be installed on Caracas, east of Taliaferro? And can you confirm how the historic cobblestone street will be restored?***

A 72-inch diameter stormwater pipeline will be installed by open cut from Taliaferro east, across Nebraska Avenue and continue on Caracas Street to North 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The City's restoration protocols specify restoring brick streets and granite curbs within the Historic District with the original bricks and curb (that will be removed and stockpiled); however, asphalt brick streets will be restored with standard asphalt, concrete curbs and gutters per City specifications.

***Where will we park when East Caracas is under construction?***

The contractor will work with each individual household to understand their needs and help identify parking.

***How far will residents have to walk to alternative parking? Will transportation be provided and starting when?***

A resident would only have to walk if an open trench was left in front of a home. In that case, a resident wouldn't have to walk more than 100 feet to the parking area near the construction zone. Additionally, the contractor will have a maintenance of traffic supervisor who will go door to door prior to construction to assist individual households with transportation needs.

***What is happening at the intersection of East Caracas and North 9th Street?***

At that location, the contractor is installing a 72-inch diameter stormwater line from Nebraska Avenue to North 9<sup>th</sup> Street. They then continue with a 60-inch diameter stormwater pipe along Caracas to 11<sup>th</sup> Street. At 9<sup>th</sup> Street, the stormwater line turns south and decreases in size to 48-inch diameter; the contractor will also install a nutrient-separating baffle box on the 48-inch stormwater line at the intersection.

***Will your shallow dewatering wells affect my private drinking water well located near the intersection of East Caracas and North 9th Street?***

The shallow wells in this area will be approximately 15 feet deep and should not affect a homeowner's domestic well. Most drinking water wells are installed much deeper, so the shallow dewater wells should not affect them.

***There is a 24-hour essential business at Nebraska and Caracas. Will access be maintained?***

The project team believes this business has two access points, one on Nebraska and one on Caracas, so when one access point is affected, the other will be open.

***Will there be any mobility improvements or sidewalks added to the eastern side of I-275? The project team is strongly encouraged to consider adding sidewalks and other mobility improvements everywhere in the project that construction is occurring.***

There are no planned mobility improvements or sidewalks planned in conjunction with this project's construction east of I-275.

***If the project impacts an existing sidewalk in front of a home, will it be replaced? A few homes in the neighborhood are new construction and have sidewalks, but older pre-existing homes do not.***

The contractor will meet with the homeowner prior to commencing work in this area to review construction plans and potential sidewalk impacts and restoration.

***Other comments:***

- The City and the project team are missing an opportunity to add mobility improvements in other areas of this project, beyond Central Avenue. The I-275 widening project will begin at the end of 2021 and construction will go up to Hanna, so FDOT will be pouring a lot of concrete. And the Hillsborough/I-275 intersection will be completely rebuilt. Please coordinate better with FDOT to improve mobility.

## **Breakout Room - West of I-275**

Will Stock of David Nelson Construction and Nanette O'Hara staffed this breakout room. Questions from residents generally focused on parking/driveway access and potential issues with cut-through traffic. Mr. Stock referred to construction plans to answer address-specific queries.

Additional questions and answers included:

### ***Can signs be posted on streets adjacent to those where construction is occurring to slow down or deter cut-through traffic?***

In general, the construction itself will deter drivers from outside the neighborhood from using residential streets. But the contractor will explore whether "Local Traffic Only" signs might be placed on streets adjacent to those under construction to deter cut-through traffic.

### ***Will construction on Crest Avenue mean that residents of Crest will need to park on adjacent streets, such as Haya or Frierson?***

On the residential streets, driveway access may be restricted to a few homes at a time as the construction crew moves equipment and operations in stages. There will not be a time when all the residents on a block will be unable to access their driveways at the same time. Those temporarily without driveway access will be able to park elsewhere on their block, such as in front of a neighbor's home. The contractor will never advise a resident to park on another street.

### ***Will the asphalt brick streets be restored to their original condition?***

No. Brick asphalt is no longer manufactured and cannot be readily sourced or matched. Brick asphalt streets will be repaved with regular asphalt per current city standards.

### ***How noisy will construction be?***

There will be noise from machinery and from back-up alarms on the construction equipment, but noise from the diesel generator that runs the dewatering pumps will likely be the most pervasive and noticeable for residents. The pumps must run 24/7 to keep water out of the construction zone. The pumps (and generator) are moved every few weeks as construction advances. However, it will be audible for some distance.

### ***Can you tell me what kind of curbs will be installed? Will I be able to drive over them to park in my yard?***

Curbs and gutters will be added everywhere that stormwater components are installed. Curbs will be modified Type A per city standards. They will be mountable. The curbs are about 5 inches high and sloped.

### ***I have Drake elm trees in the easement on North Central Ave. Will they have to be removed?***

Trees will be preserved wherever possible. If trees must be removed, they will be replaced. The work being done on Central north of Hillsborough will not require removal of trees on the west side of Central, although some root pruning may be needed if the roots extend all the way across the road.

***How will the trash collection device work? Is there more than one?***

There will be two trash collection devices at River Boulevard just north of Crest Avenue. They are large baskets intended to trap floatable litter like bottles or cans. Litter washed into storm drains along the project route will be transported toward the river through the new stormwater system and be intercepted by the trash collection devices. A City of Tampa contractor will keep the trash collection devices cleaned out regularly based on a schedule developed in concert with the City's maintenance department.

***Many people are not used to parking in front of their house. What if they block the street and a fire truck or ambulance can't get through?***

All our detours and road closures are reviewed and approved in advance by the City's traffic department. Road closure and detour maps are shared with all City departments to ensure everyone, including emergency responders, are informed. The contractor will assist with parking suggestions to ensure that streets remain accessible.

***When is construction starting?***

We don't have an exact start date yet, but it will be in late 2021.

***Will you be leaving equipment or construction materials on my property?***

Some equipment or materials will be staged in the City's right-of-way, but no equipment or materials will be placed on private property outside of the right-of-way. Equipment will be left in place overnight wherever construction stopped the previous day, for efficiency and security.

**Breakout Room - Central Avenue Transportation Improvements**

Tom Wilson of Wade Trim and Robin Bizjack of Dialogue Public Relations staffed this breakout room. Mr. Wilson briefly reviewed the map of improvements along Central Avenue and supplemental slides depicting the improvements before answering questions. Mr. Wilson answered some address-specific questions in addition to general transportation questions:

***What impact can we expect for Hillsborough High School drop-off and pick-up during these improvements? Will Central be closed at any time?***

The first thing we'll do is install the rather large stormwater infrastructure between Giddens and Caracas before any of the transportation improvements begin. We have not worked out an exact timeframe but will work to avoid school times. A lot of the culvert work is on the east side of the street rather than on the school side. The intent is to keep the lane adjacent to the high school open. We are installing a 72-inch diameter pipe, so it will take quite a bit of the road.

***Will construction near Hillsborough High occur during the summer to avoid conflicts with the school?***

We will work to coordinate with the school to lessen impact, but it is likely that because of the scope of this project, construction will occur during the school year.

***Was there any consideration for installing stanchions to divide the bike lane from the road lanes? Will you be adding any speed bumps or other traffic calming devices?***

Physical dividers for the bicycle lanes will not work with the dedicated pick up and drop off lane for Hillsborough High School. Central Avenue currently has little to no striping. Once it is properly marked, it will organize traffic to a certain extent. No speed tables are planned, but if the City finds that traffic continues to speed through Central, it can revisit speed tables as an option. (After the meeting, the project team did double-check the plans for the crosswalk at Central and Wilder. It will be a raised crosswalk, which will improve pedestrian visibility and slow traffic.)

***Was there discussion with Hillsborough High to cut into the lawn to create a car circle as opposed to having it on the road?***

It was discussed, and the school leaned away from that option.

***When will construction begin on Central?***

Construction will start in early October in other areas before beginning Central Avenue. Most likely, construction will begin on Central in about three months (December), but we do not have a specific date yet. The first impact to Central will be installation of a box culvert between Frierson and Giddens.

***Is construction being coordinated with other FDOT construction in the area?***

No. Although the project team has talked to FDOT and is including some FDOT-planned improvements on Central Avenue, this project is proceeding on its own schedule to reduce flooding and protect private property.

***Currently there is only a sidewalk on the south side of Osborne east of the library. Will a sidewalk be installed on the north side of Osborne under the overpass?***

We will forward this concern to the City. Sidewalks along Osborne are out of scope for this project. Because much of Central Avenue will be excavated for the stormwater improvements, it makes sense for the City to add improvements to meet its mobility goals and improve safety in conjunction with the stormwater project to save money and minimize disruption to the community.

***How will this project coordinate with the planned Bike Boulevard on Central?***

The Bike Boulevard will be north of Hillsborough Avenue. Our transportation improvements on Central are south of Hillsborough Avenue.

***Will you be adding raised crosswalks and raised intersection tables, especially near the school and church, if they do not interfere with the water drainage in order to slow traffic on Central?***

After the meeting, the project team did check the plans for another City project for which a crosswalk at Osborne is being installed. That crosswalk will be raised. Additionally, the crosswalk at Central and Wilder that is part of this project will be raised.

***Previously, when the roads have been repaved, the low spots have been filled in, worsening water runoff from the roads. When you repave the roads after construction, what measures are you taking to ensure water runs off the roads?***

We are reprofiling the roads as we resurface them to ensure water flows off the streets. At Florida Avenue and Crest, we will be installing new inlets that will improve stormwater drainage. We are reconstructing part of Florida Avenue to improve drainage.

***How often will you clean out the stormwater drains?***

We have baffle boxes on this project that will require periodic maintenance. A City of Tampa contractor will keep these devices cleaned out regularly based on a schedule developed in concert with the City's maintenance department.

***Will storm drains currently on Central be removed to accommodate the new box culvert?***

They will not be removed. We will install a box culvert between Frierson and Giddens. Another box culvert exists on Central that heads north from Giddens to Comanche and heads west to the river. We will connect at Hillsborough Avenue to a new 60-inch outfall, so the water has three different ways to move from this area to the Hillsborough River.

***Will the trees near the storm drains be affected?***

Trees will not be affected any more than necessary, such as root and limb pruning. Trees will not be removed on Central Avenue.

***Will the curbs remain in the same location on the west right-of-way on Central between Giddens and Frierson?***

The curbs on the western right-of-way of Central between Giddens and Frierson will not be affected.

***Would you consider a rumble strip, or something similar, to notify drivers when they enter the bike lane for bicyclist safety? Painted lines are not a deterrent.***

That is a great point. The project team will look into a rumble strip or something similar.

***How long will construction last on Central Avenue?***

Construction will take about 1.5 years on Central.

***How will construction affect the Seminole Heights Branch Library? Will we lose our street parking at the library?***

We will install pervious pavers in the street parking in front of the library, which means they will be unavailable for a short period of time. We will communicate impacts to the library ahead of time.

***Will intersections on Central be closed when you install the box culverts? Will Giddens be closed?***

We will not be closing Giddens, but there will be a short period of time where the intersection will be closed. Residents on Giddens west of Central may need to park away from their homes during this time.



***How will you handle accessibility when construction is in front of my home?***

You may have to park down the street when the road is excavated in front of your home for the few days your home is affected. We will have designated parking areas. We will have a golf cart to assist residents with, for instance, getting groceries to their homes.

***How will you handle access to Seminole Heights Elementary during this project, especially for special needs children who access the school from Central and Fern? Will this part of the project occur when school is out of session?***

We do have storm culvert and sanitary sewer being installed near the school, but we will not affect Fern Street. We are installing on Hanna from Central to Nebraska. We are coordinating closely with the school. As a result, we plan to start construction during Spring Break of March 2022 and hope to wrap up work near the school before the start of the new school year in August 2022. We will not affect all entrances to the school at the same time.

***How will you handle architectural elements, such as bricks and granite curbs?***

We have worked very closely with the City and the City's Architectural Review Commission on items associated with historic district to avoid impact to historic features.

***Other comments:***

Bricks are historic throughout the City, not just in the historic district. Pavers, even asphalt pavers, are more permeable than solid asphalt.

Please put mailboxes back on the houses where they originally were instead of at the street. Reduces potential for identity theft. (***For clarification:*** no mailboxes on homes will be affected by construction.)

One resident wanted contact numbers to all project teams members/supervisors instead of just the project hotline number.

Considering changing the speed limit on all of Central to 25 miles per hour.