



Southeast Seminole Heights Flooding Relief Project



Central Avenue Transportation Improvements Survey Results

The City of Tampa sought input from Seminole Heights residents and businesses for proposed transportation improvements along Central Avenue from Hillsborough Avenue to East Osborne Avenue. These improvements will coincide with construction of the Seminole Heights Flooding Relief Project in an effort to maximize cost efficiencies while minimizing disruption to the community.

This half-mile stretch of Central Avenue is home to residents, churches and Hillsborough High School. The City of Tampa is committed to improving bicycle, pedestrian and motorist safety along its roadways, and these improvements aim to increase safety, reduce motor vehicle speeds, and reduce collision frequency and severity while enhancing aesthetics and the environment.

The project team created a 10-question online survey to gain feedback on the proposed improvements, and disseminated door hangers along Central Avenue, between Hillsborough and East Osborne avenues, to promote the survey.

The survey link was shared with Hillsborough High School Principal Gary Brady, who sent it via a ParentLink email to parents and students. Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association provided the link to its members via “Bungalow Alerts” email, posted it to its community Facebook page, and provided it to the Seminole Heights Patch e-news site. St. Paul’s Luther Church distributed the link to it to parishioners. Additionally, the survey link was posted on the project website, www.seminoleheightsstormwater.com.

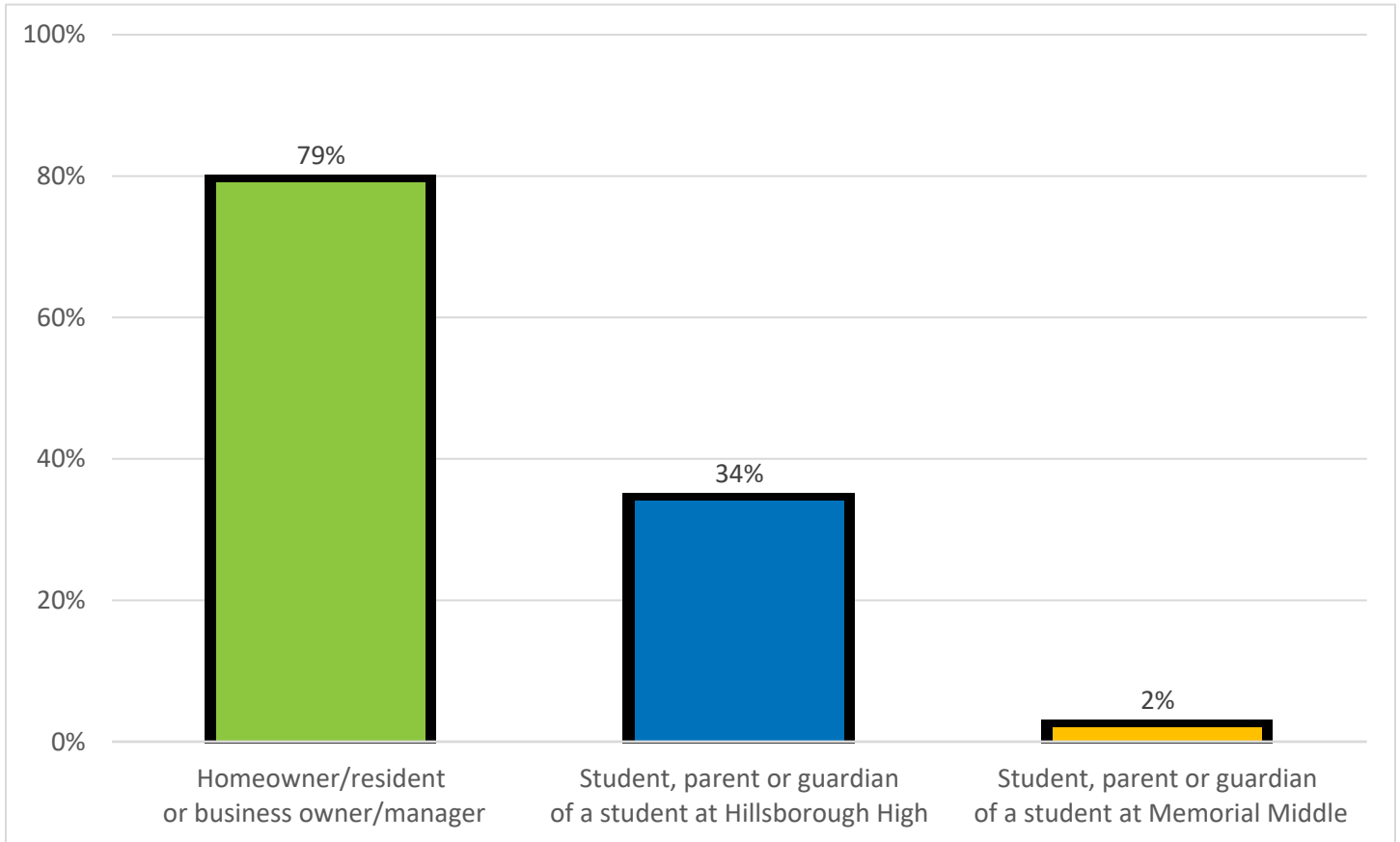
The survey was available from February 13 to March 6. This report captures the overall survey results.

Proposed Improvements

The following potential traffic improvements were included on the survey for respondents’ feedback:

- **Bicycle lanes** create separation between cyclists and automobiles and visually remind drivers of the cyclist’s shared use of the street. Clearly marked bicycle lanes improve safety for both motorists and cyclists.
- **Bulb-outs**, extensions of the curb at intersections, improve pedestrian safety by shortening road crossing distances for pedestrians and increasing visibility. They also slow turning vehicles due to the reduced width of the turning lane. In areas with on-street parking, landscaped bulb-outs can create protected parking bays.
- **On-street parking** will narrow roadways, slow traffic and provide additional parking where parking is limited.
- **Raised intersections/crosswalks** are, in essence, a smooth speed bump. They slow traffic while making it easier for motorists to see pedestrians.
- **Rectangular rapid-flashing beacons** at crosswalks that notify motorists of pedestrians crossing the crosswalk.
- **Improved signage and pavement markings**, like stop bars at cross streets, offer motorists more information about their surroundings.

Survey Results: 95 responses

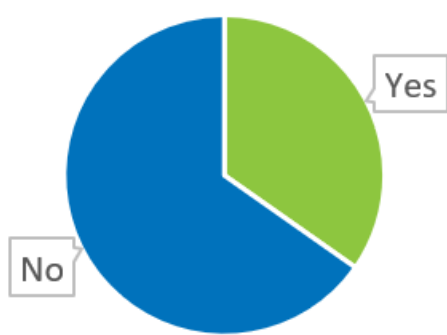


- 75 of 95 respondents are Seminole Heights home or business owners/managers
 - 12 have a student at Hillsborough High
- 32 of 95 are or have students at Hillsborough High
 - 2 also have a student at Memorial Middle
 - 12 are Seminole Heights home or business owners/managers
- The 2 respondents with Memorial Middle students are not home/business owners.

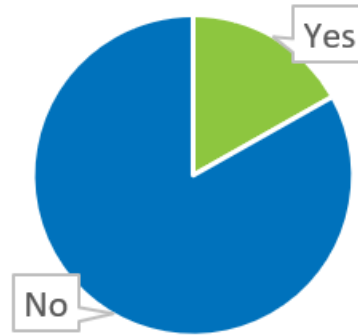
Respondents Who Have or Are Students

Hillsborough High

- 33 respondents drive or have a student who drives to Hillsborough High
- 16 respondents are or have a student who walks/rides a bike to Hillsborough High



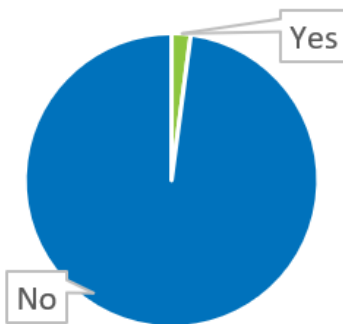
Drives or is Driven to School



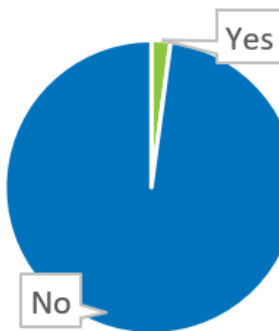
Walks or Rides a Bike

Memorial Middle

- 2 respondents drive a student to Memorial Middle
- 2 respondents have a student who walks/rides a bike to Memorial Middle



Drives or is Driven to School



Walks or Rides a Bike

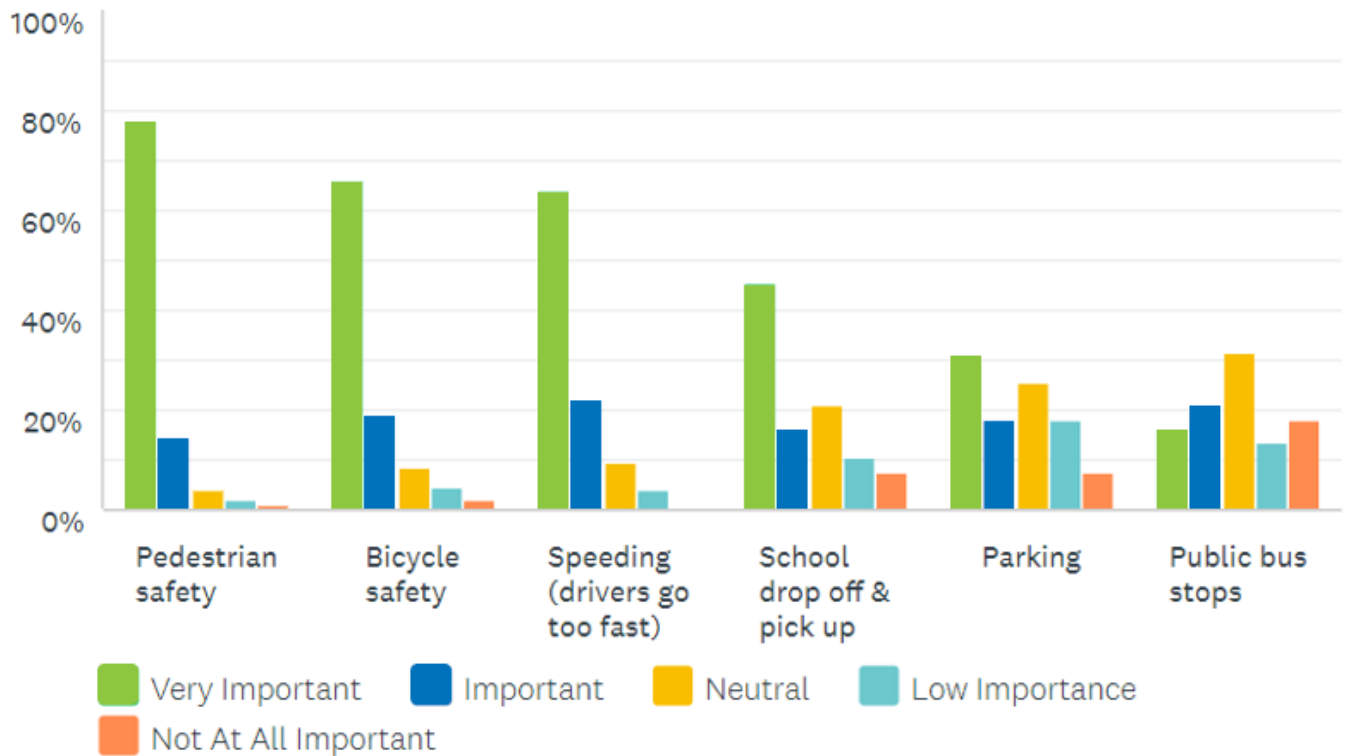
Which Traffic Issues Are Most Important?

Of all 95 respondents, the top three traffic issues are:

1. Pedestrian safety is *very important* to 78% of respondents and *important* to 15% of respondents.
2. Bicycle safety is *very important* to 66% of respondents and *important* to 19% of respondents.
3. Speeding is *very important* to 64% of respondents and *important* to 22% of respondents.

School pick-up and drop-off was a close fourth concern with 45% listing it as *very important* and 16% listing it as *important*.

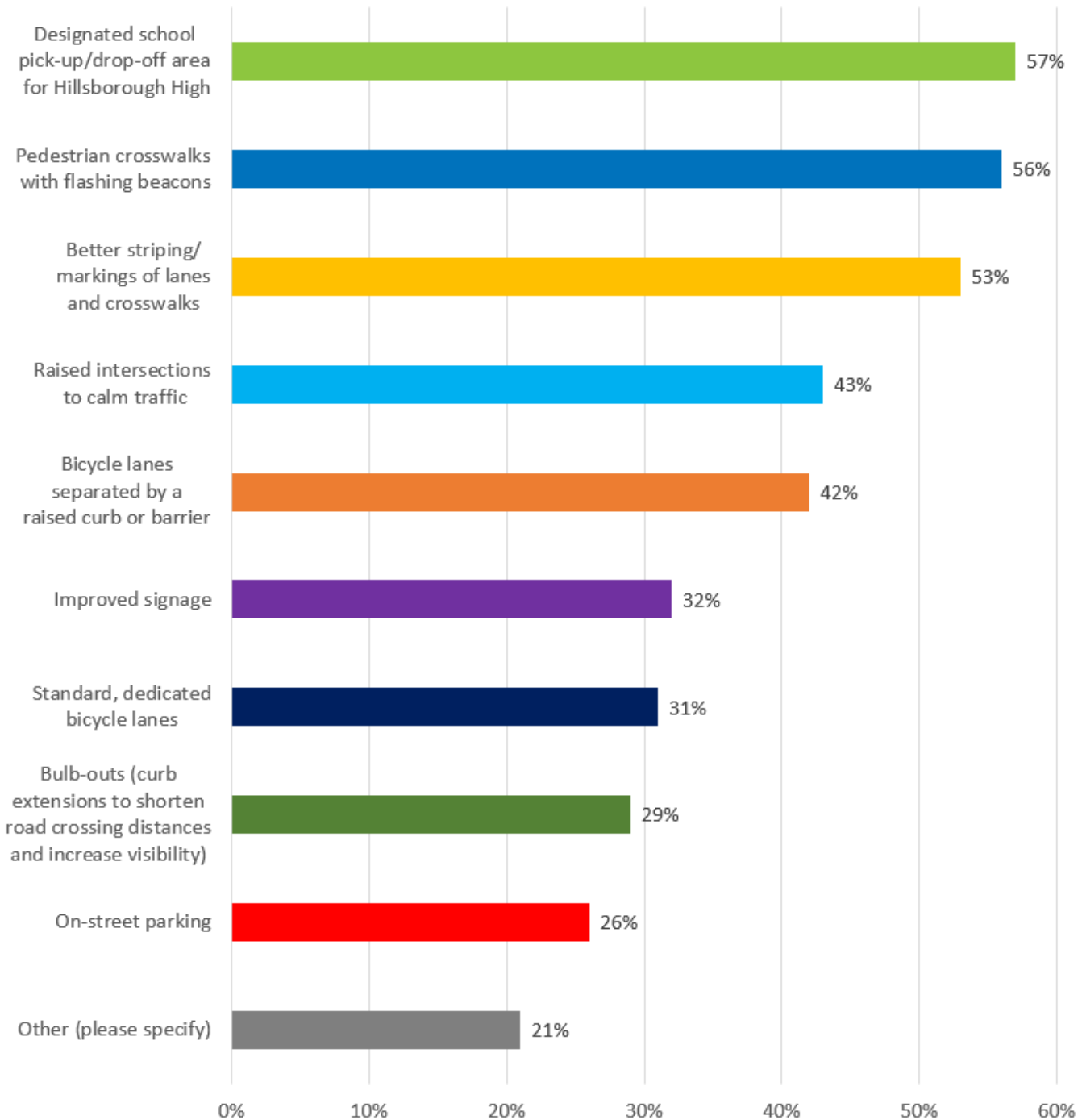
Parking and public bus stops were listed as lesser concerns. Parking was *very important* to 31% of respondents and *important* to 16% of respondents, while public bus stops were *very important* to 18% and *important* to 21%.



Which Improvements Are Most Wanted?

Question 4 asked respondents to check all the traffic improvements they would like to see along the corridor while Question 5 asked them to narrow their choices to their top three. When narrowed, the order of importance changed.

Question 4: What traffic improvements would you like to see along this corridor? (Check all that apply.)

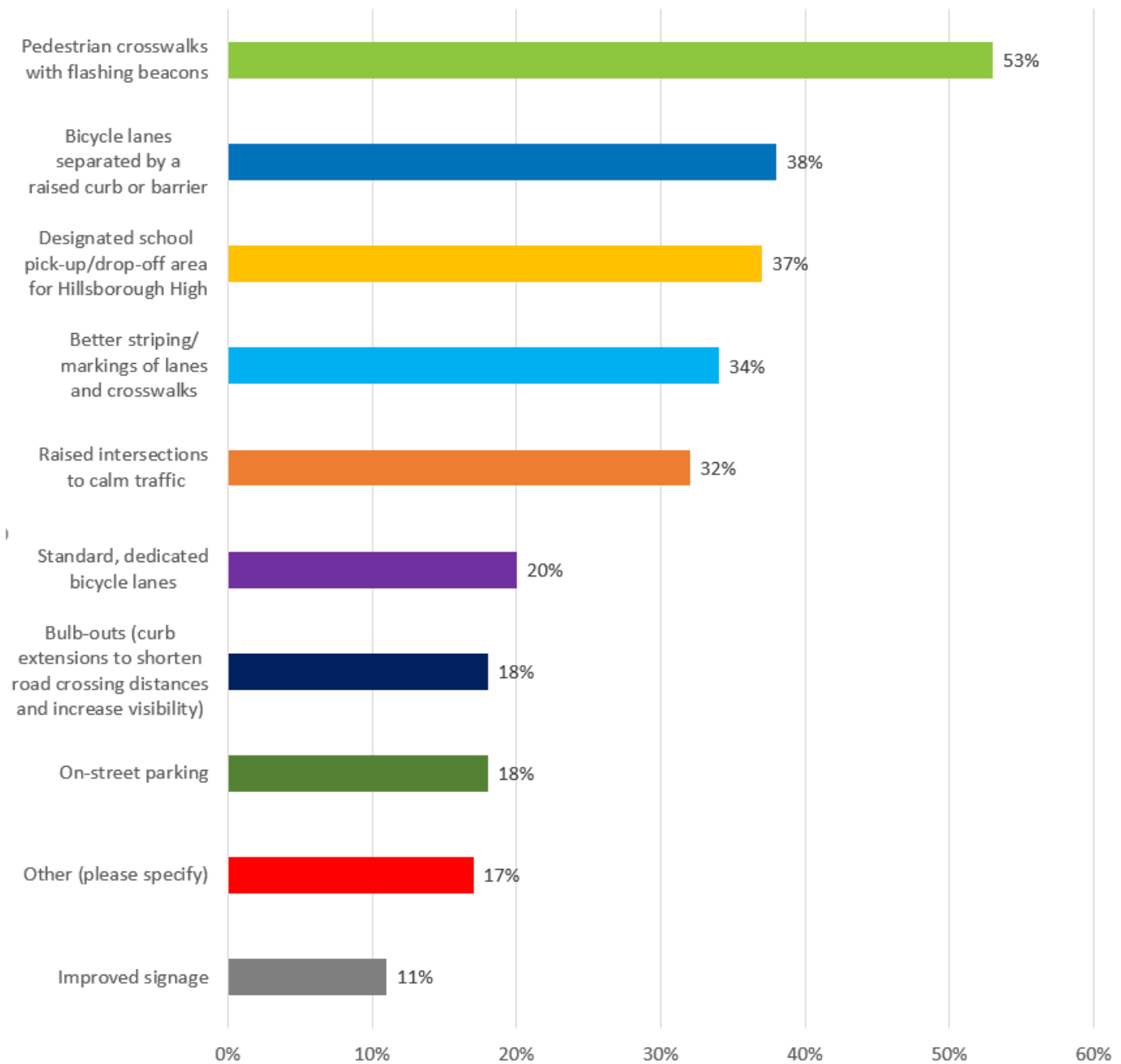


Question 5: Of the potential traffic improvements listed, which three (3) you would most like to see implemented?

The top three improvements among respondents are:

1. Pedestrian crosswalks with flashing beacons (53% of respondents)
2. Bicycle lanes separate by a raised curb or barrier (38% of respondents)
3. Designated school pick-up and drop-off for Hillsborough High (37% of respondents)

Traffic light synchronization and a protected left turn at Hillsborough and Central topped the “Other” category.



Repetitive Comments

The following comments arose repeatedly across respondents and questions:

- Speeding is an issue.
- Protected left turns are needed at Central and Hillsborough.
- Lights need to be synchronized to allow traffic to get through lights from one light to the next (from I-275 down Hillsborough).
- Hillsborough High needs a designated car circle.

To request a full survey report with responses to open-ended questions, email projectinfo@seminoleheightsstormwater.com.