



## **Southeast Seminole Heights Flooding Relief Project Transportation Improvements - Questions & Answers Updated August 2021**

### **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, along with 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?**

Construction of the Southeast Seminole Heights Flooding Relief Project is expected to begin in late September, 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 construction team will partner with Hillsborough High School administrators to minimize traffic disruptions for students and staff for work that may occur during the school year.

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

FDOT plans to construct mobility improvements on Central Avenue north of Hillsborough in the next few years.

**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.

**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. If 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.