



Tampa Heights Community Conversation Meeting Summary

In-Person

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.

Chester H. Ferguson Law Center
Hillsborough County Bar Association
1610 North Tampa Street, Tampa, FL 33602

Virtual/Online

Thursday, May 3, 2022

GoToMeeting - FDOT

FDOT hosted two open, conversation-style meetings with the Tampa Heights community to gather input and answer questions about current and planned improvements in their community. The in-person meeting was held on April 26, 2022, and the format featured a series of roundtable discussions focused on topics of interest to the community including:

- FDOT and City of Tampa Upcoming Projects
- Landscaping and FDOT Properties for Community Use
- Underpasses, Hardscape Aesthetics, and Opportunities for Public Art

As participants arrived at the meeting, they were randomly assigned to one of six small groups (two tables per topic). Following a welcome and overview, FDOT staff, City of Tampa, and consultants facilitated three, 20-minute roundtable discussions. The handouts and maps the facilitators used to help guide the conversation and to support open dialogue are posted on the Tampa Bay Next website and included:

- FDOT and City of Tampa Projects
 - Map of FDOT and City of Tampa projects in Tampa Heights
 - I-275 Capacity Improvements Project (Section 7) Concept Plan
 - I-275 Capacity Improvements Project (Section 7) Aesthetics Material
 - Downtown Tampa Interchange (I-275/I-4) Safety and Operational Improvements Concept Plan
- Underpasses, Hardscape Aesthetics (Retaining Wall Aesthetics) and Art Opportunities Guide
 - Exhibits Showing Renderings for Robles Park Visual Barrier Options
 - Renderings of Retaining Wall Along Elmore Ave
 - Renderings of Retaining Wall at Oak Ave and Lamar Ave
 - Renderings of Palm Ave Underpass
 - Map of Locations for Public Art Opportunities
 - Downtown Tampa Interchange Aesthetics
- Landscaping and FDOT Properties for Community Uses
 - Map of Community Use Spaces, Greenways, and Trail
 - Examples of Community Uses for FDOT Properties
 - Map of Proposed Landscape Areas
 - Examples of Landscaping and Trees
 - Detailed Shared Use Path Map – DTI Aesthetic Concept
 - Map of Simple DTI Trail and Connectivity

Each table also had a scribe that took detailed notes to document the discussions. At the end of each session, facilitators rotated to a new table, so participants could provide input on all three topics. The meeting space was divided with room dividers and curtains to help reduce noise and distractions.

The virtual meeting was held on May 3, 2022. Following a welcome and overview, FDOT staff, City of Tampa, and consultants facilitated conversations focused on the same topics that were discussed on April 26, 2022. The same handouts and materials were also available. Because of the small audience, there was no need to break into small groups. Participants were encouraged to provide feedback verbally and via the chat feature of Microsoft Teams.

The meetings were held in accordance with the Civil Right Act of 1964. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. There were 37 participants at the in-person meeting and 9 participants during the virtual/online meeting. The following notes summarize the roundtable and the on-line meeting discussions. Bullet point items that follow the summarization for each item discussed capture the scribed information from the discussions.

General Notes

- Graphics need to be accessible and drawings to scale, which show existing to proposed noise walls, and how close a wall is getting to residences.
- Will any future projects require demolition of any other contributing structures? Community does not want others demolished. Structures should be moved to another area within the neighborhood.

FDOT and COT Projects

The facilitator shared maps and information on projects in the Tampa Heights area by FDOT and the City of Tampa. Projects included roadway, drainage, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements. The summary of each topic discussed is below, followed by detailed notes that were scribed.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Improvements

The discussion around bicycle and pedestrian improvements focused on arterial roadways in the Tampa Heights community, providing better connectivity to existing bicycle facilities, and discussions around opportunities for new or enhanced connections. There was a desire for better bicycle facilities to provide connectivity to downtown Tampa. Additionally, participants would like to see bicycle lanes created to complete connections between existing facilities. Other ideas included placing bicycle lanes elsewhere within the City of Tampa including other residential locations or closer to businesses. The desire for improved walkability along Columbus Drive between Florida Avenue and Nebraska Avenue, and Floribraska Avenue towards the Downtown Tampa Interchange along adjacent roadways. Questions were asked about opportunities to lower activation signals for crosswalks, bike detection, and automatic rather than activated by the user.

- Bike route to downtown - Currently there are not enough bicycle lanes.
- Dedicated bike lanes connecting Florida Ave to Nebraska Ave for community connections through bike trails.
- Central Ave Improvements – how can this road become bike lanes?
- Would like to see Columbus Drive from Florida Ave to Nebraska Ave walkable.
- Would like to see wider sidewalks from Floribraska Ave and Columbus Dr to Florida Ave and Central Ave.

- May be better use of money on bike lanes in other areas around the City or different areas. Have bike lanes be protected and place near business or residential areas.
- Columbus Drive Complete Streets would be helpful.
- Having a little walkway and walkability from Floribraska Ave down to the interchange would be good?
- Focus on on-street protected bike facilities
- No cyclists on 13th Ave – fast traffic – request protected bike lane
- Palm Ave and Interstate – would like ped signal automatic, not button activated
- Bike detection – COT does not endorse
- Could you lower the button on the crossing signals so cyclists do not have to dismount?

Construction

The discussion on construction included concerns about work within a close proximity to residences and dust, noise and vibration created by ongoing work. Additionally, participants discussed safety, and accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians during construction. The facilitators discussed what mitigation strategies are being implemented for dust control and maintaining access and connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians. Concerns were also discussed for the current project and future Downtown Interchange (I-275/I-4) project regarding work to the retaining wall along Elmore Avenue. Participants also wanted to continue to be engaged as projects move into construction with FDOT doing more outreach on construction in addition to community meetings. Notifications shared with the community were discussed as FDOT project websites (FDOTTampaBay.com) that provide construction project information, notifications and alerts, and allows for users to sign up to receive email notifications on construction activities and closures or detours that may impact traffic. The community would also like to better understand who the point of contact is for a construction project. The project webpages identify the construction manager who is the key point of contact.

- Work to mitigate dust during construction
- Dust mitigation – short silt fence
- Jack hammering concrete with no water – need to mitigate at Lake Ave
- SW corner there is a port-a-potty next to house between Central and Taliaferro
- Accidents at Dr. MLK Blvd seem to be up due to the lane change
- Paint roadway shields on NB I-275
- Maintain bike/pedestrian facilities during construction on Floribraska Ave
- Clear path for bicyclists/pedestrians during construction
- Minimize length of bike/pedestrian detours and duration
- Question on orange flags along Hillsborough to I-275 and what they indicated. Adam provided response.
- Don't build retaining wall to then tear it down and rebuild it again. Building wall only build it once on Elmore.
- Schedule, start, duration for projects
- Notifications – How much advance warning for construction activities?
- Concerns on vibration monitoring and structural assessments prior and post construction
- Is there funding to cover costs associated with damages from construction? Answer is yes there is a process for damage claims. Direct link, online form, liaison can share forms that have clear and simple instructions. Can provide information to neighborhood.
- Construction should stop at sundown. Do not like night work

- More specifics on demolition. How does it work?
- Protect historic homes (plaster and original windows)
- Concern about clay septic systems affected by vibration
- Would like for FDOT to go further on survey to identify impacts
- Clear point of contact for construction projects
- More outreach to the community on construction, not just meeting
- Does not like bus on shoulder – lane should be more functional
- General concern for construction near residents
- Safety concerns without a wall. Cars could come over guardrail at Robles Park.
- Damage to historic structures

Safety

Participants discussed safety along the roadways within Tampa Heights. Participants requested enhanced safety considerations at ramps along I-275 so drivers were more aware of bicyclists and pedestrians in these areas. Additionally, participants were concerned about safety along southbound I-275 at Robles Park. There are currently guardrails along this portion of roadway and based on community input, FDOT will be constructing 14-foot visual barriers.

- Signalization and safety considerations at on and off ramps for bicyclists and pedestrians
- For DTI Safety and Operational Improvements would like to see signs to yield to bikes at ramps for those coming off the interstate
- Would like to see signal prioritization and LPIs (Leading Pedestrian Interval) signals
- Concern about cars exiting interstate if there are no guardrails – at Robles Park the proposed landscaping and trellis would have a guardrail behind them as is shown today.
- Safety hazard with little guard rail at Robles, Elmore, and Adalee Streets. When spoke to FDOT, was told that it is not in the noise study report for a noise wall. Asked to look into sound wall for area which FDOT is doing and presented options at meeting tonight.
- Concern with trail safety

Safety on Local and Arterial Streets

Participants also discussed safety on local and arterial roadways in Tampa Heights identifying some key intersections and roadways where they would like to see enhancements including stop signs, signals and complete street improvements. Many of the improvements discussed are along City of Tampa roadways and a representative from the City was there to discuss with the community their concerns and upcoming projects being completed by the City.

- Do we handle stop signs? At intersection of Amelia and Jefferson across from the elementary school. City of Tampa and William Porth are contact
- Area around Columbus Dr and Elmore Ave dangerous – COT adding signal, request sharrows
- Floribaska Ave complete streets project by City of Tampa delayed one year
- 11th Ave left turn on Palm Ave – dangerous
- Columbus Dr and Elmore Ave – add traffic signal
- Could we raise the grade at Floribaska Ave?
- Tampa St/Columbus Dr – widen where ROW taken from lane with on Tampa St/Florida Ave to use for Business Access and Transit (BAT) lane or wider sidewalks

- Traffic Analysis – okay for lane reduction
- FDOT looking at making Kay St/Scott St bike/ped friendly and incorporate into Downtown Tampa Interchange plan.
- Green Spine – 60 % higher bid – COT to secure additional funding from FDOT
 - 2A/2B- future FY24/25
 - City of Tampa Cass St connection prioritized – anticipate completion by 2025.
- LaSalle Street – FDOT will have trail from Howard Frankland Bridge to Downtown Tampa
- West River BUILD Grant – Heights Mobility Study
- Would like Allen Temple Church St/12th Ave to have RRFB to connect to Nuccio Pkwy.

Landscaping and Lighting

Participants requested landscaping and pedestrian lighting be added to projects to enhance the community. Additionally, relocating utility poles to the backside of sidewalks and removing or replacing dead landscaping is preferred.

- Add landscape and pedestrian lighting to add to overall enhancement
- Does not like poles in the middle of sidewalks and dead landscaping
- 21st St / 22nd St added bulb outs for landscaping. Project does include bulb outs to help slow turning traffic

Additional Topics

Discussions also focused on coordination between FDOT and the City of Tampa on various projects including improvements along Florida Avenue, the Streetcar extension, and concerns on existing art. FDOT is working on the Heights Mobility project where costs have increased significantly. FDOT representatives talked about the project’s status, what is included and what will be future work to complete the improvements.

- Are FDOT and COT coordinating with the work along Florida Ave and will it tie in with the interchanges?
- Florida Ave improvements– moving forward with. Funded as one project. Drainage being added. Cost increase 50-60% - shortened project.
- Heights Mobility – look at entire corridor up to Fowler Ave
- I-275 wall – how can we minimize it?
- What can citizens do to help keep the projects moving?
- Improve traffic flow as air quality is poor
- Current sculpture on 26th St below I-4 is covered by foliage
- Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) tax referendum (Nov)=Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). BRT not added now – low cost to add BRT when HART is ready. Request BRT from Tyler St to MLK Blvd, north of MLK Blvd, up to Palm Ave/Floribraska Ave.
- Streetcar expansion up to Palm Ave – design in 2023

Aesthetics and Hardscapes

- **Robles Park Barrier Options:**
- Participants discussed different barrier options that could be constructed along southbound I-275 at Robles Park. This topic was a follow up to information presented by FDOT to the

Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) earlier in the year. The options included landscaping as well as both 8-foot and 14-foot visual barriers. While ideas varied, the majority of feedback received was to install the 14-foot visual barriers with landscaping. Many participants would like to keep the existing trees which FDOT and the contractor will try to do during construction. Following this meeting, FDOT informed the Hillsborough TPO that local funds would not be needed to construct the 14-foot barrier.

- Keep crash protection
 - Walls could be other colors
 - Definitely need wall for visual and sound
 - Lush landscaping with barrier behind. Trellis preferred for appealing visual on both sides.
 - Visual and security barrier
 - Trees remain (8 or 14 foot)
 - Would like to keep the trees and no viburnum
 - Like barrier with trees
 - Green barrier that will stop noise and be effective
 - Noise barrier, shoulder barriers better can add additional landscaping – funding by state better option
 - Like 8-foot barrier
 - 8-foot wall – additional landscape
 - Prefer the 8-foot wall for safety, landscaping in front of wall
 - Bigger wall and more landscaping
 - Question on why the 14-foot barrier has to be constructed using local funds. What are the qualifiers. If COT has to pay for wall, unsure it will be funded using local money
 - Prefer 14' noise barrier wall
- **General Aesthetics**
 - While specific aesthetic treatments were discussed, participants discussed general aesthetics within the Tampa Heights community. Most would like to keep the historic feel of Tampa Heights and have more robust aesthetics that identify the community either in feel, wording or aesthetic elements that create more placemaking. Participants also discussed connectivity and would like a connection between Robles Park and Robles Village that is safe as well as extended bike trails from Robles Park to Dr. MLK Jr. Boulevard.
 - Connect Robles Park to Robles Village safely
 - Would like to see a ball field
 - Bike trail up to Robles Park and MLK Blvd
 - Aesthetics are needed at Floribraska Ave and within all historic districts
 - At Floribraska Ave would like improvements and art
 - Would like a protected bike facility with lighting for visibility along Floribraska Ave
 - Would like a historic look everywhere
 - Tampa Heights feels left out
 - Would like to see Tampa Heights spelled out in bricks or stamping for art
 - Ornamentation at Dr. MLK Blvd like is done in Ybor City and at Howard Ave to create placemaking
 - Paint colorful crosswalks that include clear vision line of sight and delineation
 - Black fencing proposed at underpasses and at retaining walls is unattractive
 - Gravity walls should be fully vertical or there needs to be a better solution to the aesthetics. The slopes look weird. If approach could be more like MLK and Hillsborough

underpasses at Lake Ave and Nebraska Ave it could be more consistent. Suggest fencing with side caps near the area adjacent to the MSE or sides of underpasses

- Add trash receptacles along trail

- **Elmore Ave MSE Wall Patterns**

- Participants discussed different patterns for the MSE/retaining wall along Elmore Avenue. From Robles Street to Floribraska, this section of MSE wall will remain as is and FDOT proposed adding a brick knee wall and landscaping along this section which was what participants liked most. South of Robles Street along Elmore Avenue the MSE/retaining wall is proposed to be reconstructed as part of the Downtown Tampa Interchange project. Different patterns for the MSE/retaining wall were discussed and the majority of participants identified the brick X pattern as the preferred finish. Similar to the section north of Robles Street, participants also wanted landscaping in front of this section of retaining wall.

- Along Elmore and Oak Aves, like the brick pattern
- Like brick pattern
- Paint or change aesthetic for retaining walls between Columbus Dr and Floribraska Ave to red color or red brick X pattern
- Brick wall with X pattern
- X brick pattern fits historic district and matches existing aesthetics
- Brick X with landscaping
- Others thought the knee wall brick pattern looked better
- Prefer brick knee wall and landscaping with paint above knee wall to match the brick color
- Like knee wall and landscaping for both new wall and existing wall to remain
- Knee wall with brick X pattern
- Aesthetically, would like to keep it the same for the block
- Go with whatever is least expensive
- Would like complete screening of trees along the wall without spaces
- One of the brick options as its in a historic area. The knee wall along the existing wall and then the X pattern with landscaping. Add something along Floribraska Ave to Robles Park that is consistent in areas where things are planned
- Could brick wall be higher up to the top of the trees and up to Hugh St?

- **Lighting Along Elmore**

- Additionally, along Elmore Avenue, participants wanted to see lighting from Robles Street to Columbus drive. This is a City of Tampa street and FDOT will coordinate with the City on this input.
 - Lighting needed on Elmore Ave along the brick portion of street
 - Add lighting for safety
 - Landscape area
 - More lighting on Elmore Ave

- **Lamar and Oak Aves**

- Near Lamar Avenue and Oak Avenue, FDOT is planning to construct a dry pond and also identified an area that can be used for community spaces. Discussion on the planned dry pond included different ideas on how to enhance the planned pond and area including the addition of amenities around the pond, use of expansive landscaping around the pond, creating a wet pond and placing the pond underground. Additionally, similar to conversations about the

MSE/retaining wall for other sections of I-275, in this area, the community preferred the brick x pattern with landscaping along the wall.

- Shell walls with light color get dirty. Prefer brick X pattern with landscaping
 - Brick X pattern with landscaping
 - Cover the wall with landscaping and have trees behind current community center
 - More screening wall with trees for a continuous look
 - Same wall for continuity – brick with landscaping
 - Boardwalk over water pond
 - Trail into Robles Park
 - NE pond, trail over top with lighting
 - Concern with dry ponds not visually compatible with Tampa Heights – native wildflower planted, high end landscaping and other treatments preferred – red maple trees
 - Could dry pond be underground?
 - Do not like dry pond at Oak St – prefer water
- **Underpasses and Palm Ave**
 - Participants discussed underpass improvements including aesthetics at Palm Avenue. There was community concern that if the Tampa Bay Rays team moves the baseball stadium to the Ybor area that pedestrian and vehicular traffic will significantly increase. Participants asked about wider sidewalks and FDOT explained this underpass already has a wide sidewalk and that the trail will connect here, providing pedestrian and bicycle connectivity. Participants also discussed the gravity walls planned for this underpass, opportunities for art and options for the face of the gravity wall which were to leave it with a smooth finish or a brick finish. No finite resolution was determined for the face of the gravity wall. The Downtown Tampa Interchange project will include lighting for the underpasses.
 - Concern if Rays move the stadium to Ybor area, would need more improvements along Palm Ave to accommodate traffic, cars and people
 - Consider wider sidewalks. If baseball stadium is approved for Ybor there will be more foot traffic.
 - Like brick wall and to include lighting
 - Art and lighting at underpasses (all)
 - Would like additional lighting along Palm Ave
 - Better lighting at underpasses
 - Lighting and treatment along paths and over underpasses similar to Riverwalk
 - Aesthetics or murals on the gravity walls at Palm Ave underpasses
 - Murals at underpasses
 - Full height walls at Palm Ave underpass
 - Prefer vertical wall
 - Vertical wall with mural
 - Would like full vertical cuts at all underpasses – Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd, Floribaska Ave Lake Ave, Osbourne Ave and Chelsea Ave
 - No fencing at underpasses on gravity wall
 - Would like to see black aluminum fence similar to in Tampa Heights
 - Yes, to brick at underpass but wall go up further. No omega fence as its too much like chain-link. Prefer fencing black aluminum like Ybor. Wall go up all the way with lights of lighting.

- **Public Art Locations**
- Participants discussed potential locations for public art that would be completed by the City of Tampa. While no final locations were identified, potential options included Palm Avenue, Tampa Street, 7th Avenue, Floribraska Avenue, along the shared use path and near ponds. FDOT will provide this input to the City of Tampa.
 - Would like to see art at Palm Ave
 - Would like art at Tampa St and 7th Ave
 - Near community garden, on MSE wall in park area along trail good spot for public art
 - Robles Park barrier good location for art
 - Art - locate under interstates
 - Would like to see public art near the ponds if there is additional interest by others in the community
 - Along the shared use paths, have continuous art along the greenspace like the Riverwalk
 - Would like to see art along the trail and in the west area
 - Art at Robles Park
 - Tampa St/7th Ave – Statue
 - Art at Robles Park, Floribraska Ave, Palm Ave, Oak Ave near pond. Tampa Heights will pay for paint and arrange for artists.
 - Floribraska Ave should be priority for art
 - No public space except for Waterworks Park. The more people using such spaces the less problems there will be in those areas
- **Types of Public Art and Local Artists**
- In addition to potential locations for public art, participants noted they would like to see signage or key location maps, freestanding art near Oak Street and blank walls where local artists and the neighborhood can coordinate with FDOT to showcase work by local artists to complete murals.
 - Plain freestanding wall for art (Oak St)
 - Signage
 - 4 corner place art
 - Key location map
 - Blank walls for Tampa Wall Arts Initiative (Robles Park, Floribraska Ave)
 - Want more public art. Maintenance of properties under FDOT fall between the cracks like ivy along the walls. Could put murals on the walls and have artists worldwide to complete work – like Windwood Walls in Miami
 - Use artists from the neighborhood to collaborate with FDOT and COT
 - Have local artists to showcase work and switch out art along the trail to increase visual interest
 - FDOT/COT provide the walls “canvases” we will supply the paint and artists
 - Allow local artists to paint mural

Landscaping and Community Use for FDOT Properties

- **Community Spaces**
- FDOT shared visuals that identified three locations for community spaces as part of the Downtown Interchange project and participants discussed different ideas regarding how to best use the location in Tampa Heights. The information presented also included different amenities to be included in the space that the City of Tampa has agreed to maintain and include a dog park, exercise equipment along the shared use path and a 3X3 basketball court. Participants discussed these options and other ideas the space could be used for including new/affordable housing, any use that would create an active space, extended community garden, pavilion or public market space, community pool, soccer field, family friendly space, playground, tennis court and a linear park. Participants noted they would like to see this space connect to surrounding areas and be inviting for the overall community. No finalized decision was made on the community use space and FDOT will continue to discuss these ideas with the City of Tampa and the community.
 - Garden
 - All options shared: Dog park, exercise equipment, 3x3 basketball court
 - Sell part of land for affordable housing with 100-year lease with covenants
 - Use for affordable housing
 - Redevelop into new housing
 - Need connectivity from Nuccio Pkwy/Palm Ave to Nebraska Ave to Lake Ave
 - Want walkability and transit ability in area
 - More community gardens where community can have dinners
 - Extend greenway to Dr. MLK Blvd. It does not have to remain along the wall but could run through or to Robles Park
 - South of I-4, do anything to attract people to this area
 - Would like to see Franklin St area activating dead zones further east and have unused space to have artwork
 - What can we all do to expand green space for biking? We currently have 10 blocks for green space and it should be more by now. Need for it to connect to Ybor City and Green Spine projects
 - Like the dominos and chess idea because a lot of seniors are in the area and it's a good way to meet neighbors
 - Pavilion for a farmers' market. Take a structure, give a structure. Need one like Centennial Park to bring businesses there
 - Public market building like Centennial Park in Ybor City
 - Economic driver to support small business – pavilion with markets
 - Shelter for farmers market or gathering space like Ybor. Needs to be secured at night when not in use.
 - Community pool since there is not one in Tampa Heights or within walking or biking distance
 - Enclosed pool – not a lot of covered pools in the area which could be used throughout the year
 - Volleyball court
 - Basketball
 - Soccer field with shade and lots of trees
 - Stations for bikes and scooters along the trail system
 - Rarely see people use exercise equipment

- Fitness stations along the way like at Bayshore
 - Splash pad for children
 - Space that is kid and family friendly
 - Activities to occupy young people or equipment geared toward young people
 - Playground equipment but more imaginative like near the Boys and Girls Club – potential space near Lamar Ave/sorority house
 - Tennis courts
 - South of Columbus Drive, north of I-4 – disc golf, recreational shuffleboard, fresh market stands
 - Connected trail add way finding signs, trail map, direct walkers/cyclists to space like dog park, community garden
 - Linear space to connect to bike trail
 - Linear Park
 - Parks
 - Need lighting
 - Trail lighting
 - Lighting that looks and feels historic
 - Dog Park with turf and watering stations
 - Dog park is great and an opportunity for everyone to meet and gather
 - Dog park
 - Dog park
 - Dog park under the interstate with parking
 - Greenway benches
 - Idea of a water feature being an option
 - Pond landscaping – resort style with fountains and landscaping
 - Pond – boardwalk, mulch
 - Boardwalk over pond at Oak Ave
 - Large pond – trail to go over pond
 - Pond with water
 - Concern of mosquitos and trash because of dry pond
 - Viaducts underneath I-275 – use as community space for neighbors to meet one another. Or use for a dog park, basketball or pickleball court or anything other than what is there today. Remove the street-level parking
 - Activate inactive space near Mobley Park. Current there is just dirt and fencing and by Franklin St. Would like to see connectivity to downtown and Tampa Heights.
- **Landscaping**
 - Landscaping is included as part of the Downtown Interchange Improvements. Visuals denoted existing landscaping that will remain and areas where landscape screening or general landscaping will be added. The community provided feedback on the plan and also provided input on tree types and locations to enhance the community. Participants wanted native and Florida friendly landscaping to be used that would blend with the existing landscaping and be low maintenance. Another idea was to add fruit trees near the community garden and shade trees along the shared use path.
 - Native and Florida-friendly trees preferred
 - Would like natural vegetation with native plants to help minimize maintenance
 - Other trees proposed include:
 - Live oaks

- Firebush
 - Butterfly friendly plants and trees
 - Vines
 - Like the cedar trees and crepe myrtle. Would like to see red maples and jacaranda trees.
 - More fruit trees and mulberries
 - Like Live Oaks, no Palms
 - No Palm trees, limit Crape Myrtle trees and use shade trees
 - Add fruit trees (mango, kumquat, key lime) near community garden. Community could maintain trees near the trail along the west side.
 - Cedar trees for screening
 - Small plants and ground cover – jasmine at SR 574 at 15th St looks good. Look at Bayshore Blvd
 - Remove Laurel Oaks
 - Leland Cypress trees along Elmore Ave retaining wall
 - Native wildflower planted, high end landscaping and other treatments are preferred, red maples
 - Landscaping that is low maintenance including Coontie plant or Indian Hawthorne
 - Avocado tree between 10th St and 12th St, south of I-4
 - Prefer shade tree not palm along trail as long as there is lighting
- **Areas for additional landscaping**
 - Participants requested that landscaping be completed when an area of work is completed rather than at the end of the project. They requested lush landscaping along Elmore Avenue, at the community garden and near ponds to enhance the user experience.
 - Phase implementation of landscaping for when area of work is complete
 - Lush landscaping along Elmore Ave between Columbus Drive and Floribraska Ave
 - More landscaping and a sound barrier near community garden
 - Anywhere there is green space make landscaping as full and lush as possible
 - Pond at Oak and Lamar Aves to include lighting and include resort amenity with landscaping, etc.
 - Enhanced landscaping at ponds. Concern the dry pond won't be visually compatible with Tampa Heights.
 - Add landscaping along Elmore Ave or add art
 - More trees like the ones at the community garden
 - Enhanced landscaping at ponds
 - **Landscaping and Improvements near Lamar and Oak Avenues**
 - Landscaping and enhancements at the proposed pond at Lamar Avenue and Oak Avenue included a boardwalk that crosses the pond and landscaping to enhance the community and improve air quality.
 - Would like a boardwalk across the pond area
 - Design landscape to leverage community benefit – beautify neighborhood – benches
 - Retention area does not always need a pond
 - 14th Ave and Nebraska Ave – why retention pond
 - No fencing around retention pond
 - Any landscaping that can be added to offset carbon dioxide. The more leaves the better.

- Mitigate air issue with landscaping
- **Shared use path general**
- The discussion around the planned shared use path included describing the improvements that will be made as part of the Downtown Interchange project. Visuals helped illustrate that the shared use path would run along 13th Avenue in Ybor which will be widened, along the north side of I-4 and will connect to the existing Tampa Heights Greenway in the Tampa Heights community with improvements under I-275 at Columbus Avenue, Palm Avenue and Central Avenue. Participants would like to see a bike trail extend from Robles Park to both Dr. MLK Jr. Boulevard and Kay Street, enhancing north/south mobility. Some participants were concerned that today bicyclists use Central Avenue and would like to see bike traffic shift to Elmore Avenue. Participants also inquired about lighting along the trail. Similar to what is along existing trails and shared use paths, solar lights will be installed along the shared use path and is being completed in coordination with the City of Tampa, which maintains the trail.
 - Widen 13th Avenue to two lanes with shared use path. This is currently the plan for the DTI project
 - Would like to see bike trail up extended to Robles Park and MLK Blvd and south to Kay Street
 - Treat bike path as well as roads
 - No “wallpaper brick pavers’ on road at Ola Ave and Central Ave
 - Columbus Drive to Central Ave gets bike traffic that they would like to move to Elmore Avenue
 - Add bike path from Columbus Dr to Central Ave to Elmore Ave
 - Add wide shared use path in front of houses on 12th Avenue. This is currently the plan for the DTI project between 12th Avenue and the exit ramp to 14th/15th Streets.
 - Solar lights on trails. This is currently the plan for the DTI project and has been coordinated with City of Tampa
 - 12th Ave needs shared use path
 - Reroute Green Spine to 15th Ave to 14th Ave not Nuccio Pkwy. Shared feedback with the City of Tampa.
 - Trail will not be safe – add lights. This is currently the plan for the DTI project and has been coordinated with City of Tampa

Next Steps

This meeting summary is available on-line at: www.tampabaynext.com. FDOT is reviewing the feedback and is working to identify how feedback received can be incorporated into the ongoing construction project along I-275 and the upcoming construction project for the Downtown Interchange. Additionally, FDOT will continue to engage with the community and is scheduled to present an update to the Tampa Heights Civic Association in August 2022. FDOT will also be scheduling presentation updates to additional neighborhood associations in the coming months.