



Sulphur Springs

Community Meeting Summary



Table of Contents

Sulphur Springs Community Meeting Summary	2
Introduction	2
Important Community Destinations & Landmarks	3
Transportation Issues	3
Site Specific issues (Road is hard to cross, conflicts at intersections, trash, or maintenance)	4
What elements of your neighborhood needs to be preserved?	4
If you could improve one thing in your neighborhood, what would it be?	5
What issues would you like to see addressed by a neighborhood plan?	5
Appendix A – Workshop Slides	6
Appendix B – Mapping exercise comments	18
Appendix C – Online survey responses	28

Acknowledgements

Sulphur Springs Action League

Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise

City of Tampa Administration & Staff

Stephen Benson, City Planning Department Director

Frank Crum, Community Engagement Coordinator

Alis Drumgo, Deputy Administrator for Development and Economic Opportunity

Kelly Fearon, Vision Zero Engineer

Frank Hall, City of Tampa Planner III

Alex Henry, Vision Zero Team Leader

Javier Marin, City of Tampa Director of Economic Opportunity

Janelle McGregor, City of Tampa Community Engagement and Partnerships Director

Andy Mikulski, City of Tampa Senior Planning Coordinator

Erica Moody, City of Tampa Community Redevelopment Agency Director

Matthew Pleasant, City of Tampa Senior Planning Coordinator

Sulphur Springs Community Meeting Summary

Introduction

The City of Tampa hosted a community meeting Wednesday, June 21, in Sulphur Springs at the George A. Bartholomew North Tampa Community Center. During the meeting, Mobility Department staff asked participants to identify traffic safety issues that its Quick Build program can address.¹ The City Planning Department presented on the potential for a neighborhood plan to comprehensively address issues in Sulphur Springs. Participants were asked a series of questions, including several aimed at identifying potential focus areas for a plan: What elements of your neighborhood need to be preserved? If you could improve one thing in your neighborhood, what would it be? What issue would you like to see addressed by a neighborhood plan?

After a brief presentation, city staff facilitated conversations among the approximately 30 residents who attended. Working in small groups, participants were encouraged to identify site-specific concerns and ideas on large maps of the neighborhood. Each group reported out the details of their conversation at the end of the meeting.

Multiple themes emerged among the concerns and ideas presented during the reporting session:







- The neighborhood lacks adequate sidewalks, has streets in poor condition, and transit service is inadequate.
- Residents take on significant risk when biking, walking, or driving. Specific concerns included speeding.
- Residents feel crime is prevalent throughout the neighborhood with specific concerns about gun violence.
- The cultural and historic assets unique to Sulphur Springs should be protected, preserved, and better utilized.
- Homeownership should be encouraged, and housing affordability is important to preserve and increase.



Residents gathered at tables during the June 21 community meeting at the George A. Bartholomew North Tampa Community Center at 8608 N. 12th St.

Map Exercise

Please identify:

-  Important community destinations & landmarks
-  Transportation issues (crossing, speeding, etc.)
-  Site specific issues (road is hard to cross, conflicts at intersection, trash or maintenance)
-  What elements of your neighborhood need to be preserved?
-  If you could improve one thing in your neighborhood, what would it be?
-  What issues would you like to see addressed by a neighborhood plan?

Questions posed to participants of the June 21 community meeting in Sulphur Springs

¹ The Quick Build program uses materials like paint, signs, and pavement markings to implement projects in a shorter time and at a lower cost compared to traditional methods. As part of the City's Vision Zero efforts, these quick build projects focus on providing safety enhancements for all users.

This report summarizes the verbal and written feedback provided by participants in more detail. An online survey was conducted and promoted in the neighborhood. The results of the survey are in Appendix C.

Important Community Destinations & Landmarks

Sulphur Springs is home to multiple landmarks that date to when the once independent community drew tourists to the area’s mineral springs and attractions that grew up around it. Today, these landmarks sit close to modern day destinations that fulfill the shopping and recreational needs of neighborhood residents.

Participants noted a mix of these destinations during the meeting. These include a set of locations that form a recreational centerpiece in the neighborhood: the **Sulphur Springs Water Tower**, the surrounding **River Tower Park**, and nearby **Sulphur Springs Pool**.



Sulphur Springs Pool at 701 E. Bird St. in Tampa

To the east of these locations is the **Springs Theater**, which once showed movies and is being [restored](#) into a distillery and event space. Other parks noted by residents include the riverfront **Mann-Wagnon Memorial Park**, a county-owned park, and the city-owned **Rowlett Park**, which includes a two-mile trail, playgrounds, and other facilities on the Hillsborough River. Office space at Mann-Wagnon Memorial Park is home the **Sulphur Springs Museum and Heritage Center** and **Community Stepping Stones**, a nonprofit that provides arts curriculum for children.

The **Family Dollar** at 8331 N. Nebraska Ave. and **Save A Lot** grocery at 8320 N. Florida Ave. are important shopping locations residents. Residents also noted two education destinations: **Sulphur Springs K-8**, at 8412 N 13th St., and **Layla’s House**, at 1506 E. Eskimo Ave., a community-based learning center for young children that also provides support for parents and caregivers.

Transportation Issues

Sulphur Springs has long faced issues with transportation access and safety. US DOT classifies the neighborhood as **transportation disadvantaged**, a community where residents require more time and resources to reach everyday destinations. Nebraska Avenue, which runs north-south through the neighborhood, is a **Vision Zero high-injury corridor**. I-275 distances residents to the east of the interstate from important destinations to the west side, including Hillsborough Area Regional Transit’s **Yukon Transfer Center**.

Participant feedback reflected these challenges. Participants repeatedly noted a general lack of safety for bicyclists and pedestrians in the neighborhood, specifically for students walking to and from **Sulphur Springs K-8**. Speeding, stop-sign running, poor pavement conditions, and parked cars blocking the view of drivers were also identified as concerns. Multiple participants noted the need for a left turn signal for vehicles turning from **Waters Avenue onto Nebraska Avenue**.

Site Specific issues (Road is hard to cross, conflicts at intersections, trash, or maintenance)



Front top: The Sulphur Springs Water Tower, the Sulphur Springs gazebo, and the Springs Theater. Each were mentioned as important places to preserve.

Workshop participants identified numerous areas in the neighborhood with reoccurring litter issues and illegal dumping. One participant noted the need to “clean up the entire Sulphur Springs area.” A specific area of concern is the boardwalk portion of the

“Clean up the entire Sulphur Springs area.”

- Community meeting participant

Sulphur Springs Park Trail that leads from River Tower Park to the west of I-275 to the Sulphur Springs Pool to the east of the interstate. The area is frequently littered with trash and needles, according to participants. Another specific location mentioned was a HART bus stop located near the intersection of Busch Boulevard and Nebraska Avenue.

The participants also mentioned multiple intersections within the neighborhood that have reoccurring issues with trash and illegal dumping, generally east of Nebraska Avenue and south of Bird Street. These intersections included Ninth Street and Waters Avenue, Sitka Street and Tenth Street, and River Cove Street and 14th Street.

What elements of your neighborhood needs to be preserved?

Several unique historical, natural, and recreational features of Sulphur Springs should be preserved, according to participants. Multiple participants wrote or mentioned during report-outs that the neighborhood’s **tree canopy** should be preserved. The **Sulphur Springs Pool** was specifically mentioned as an important destination that should be maintained because of its affordability, high quality, and accessible location.²

“Never redevelop or change the pool or parks. Preserve them forever.”

- Community meeting participant

The **Sulphur Springs Water Tower**, the **Springs Theater**, and the **Sulphur Springs Museum and Heritage Center** were also mentioned as structures or institutions to preserve. Participants also noted the **Sulphur Springs gazebo**.

The gazebo was constructed in 1920 near the original Sulphur Springs pool and [housed a spring-fed](#) drinking fountain for tourists.

² The Parks and Recreation Master Plan lists the potential relocation of the pool and redevelopment of the existing site as among projects that would need some level of planning, public engagement, and concept development prior to implementation (See Table 5-1 on pg. 289 and the table of proposed parks on pg. 324 of the [Parks and Recreation Master Plan](#)).

As of August 2023, the Parks and Recreation Department is planning to paint the Sulphur Springs Water Tower. Approximately \$1.5 million in [improvements](#) to River Tower Park are also planned as part of the City of Tampa's 2023-2024 budget.

If you could improve one thing in your neighborhood, what would it be?

Participants repeatedly mentioned neighborhood wide issues during the discussions. These included the number of rental properties that have been acquired by large institutions or owners who live outside the area. These owners, according to participants, are slow to respond to code violations and renter complaints. Some participants would like to see more local homeownership to increase the sense of neighborhood stewardship. Other neighborhood-wide issues include crime, litter, and poor road conditions. One participant noted the industrial uses located along Busch Boulevard east of Nebraska Avenue have been an “eye sore for decades.”

What issues would you like to see addressed by a neighborhood plan?

Housing affordability and homeownership were specifically mentioned as issues that a longer-term plan should address.

Participants noted multiple locations that a neighborhood plan could contemplate as part of a future vision for the area. The areas include the **dog track site** on Nebraska Avenue and the shopping center on Waters Avenue and Florida. One participant specifically suggested adding a low-cost grocer to the area as an idea. An undeveloped parcel on **Grant Avenue and Nebraska Avenue** was noted as a highly visible location with potential to contribute more to the neighborhood if redeveloped. The future of the original **Sulphur Springs Pool** was also asked about, as well as the possibility of reviving the spring itself. Access to the river for recreational use was mentioned as a possible focus as well.

Other ideas included using older hotels on Nebraska Avenue to house social services, improving the **Yukon Transfer Center** and transit service within the neighborhood, seeking historic designation, adding more amenities to **River Tower Park**, and improving the walkway along the river in a similar style at the Tampa Downtown Riverwalk.

WELCOME

TAMPA
MO>ES
Mobility • Opportunity • Vision • Equity • Safety




Sulphur Springs

Traffic Safety & Neighborhood Plan Community Meeting

June 21, 2023

WELCOME

TAMPA
MO>ES
Mobility • Opportunity • Vision • Equity • Safety

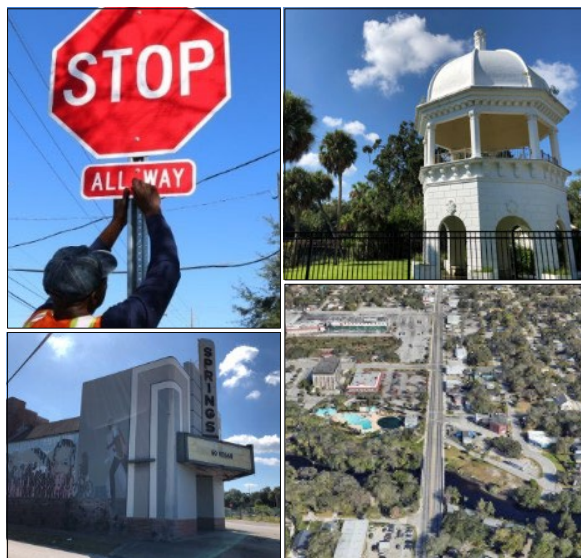


Sulphur Springs Action League



Meeting Purpose

- Transportation
- Neighborhood Plan



WHAT IS VISION ZERO?



Vision Zero sets the goal to eliminate all roadway fatalities and severe injuries on our roads, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.



No loss of life on our roads is acceptable.



Design our roadways to be more forgiving.

VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN



The Vision Zero Action Plan:

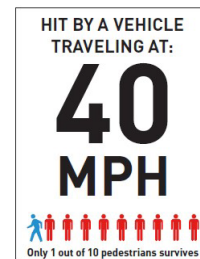
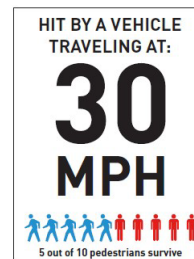
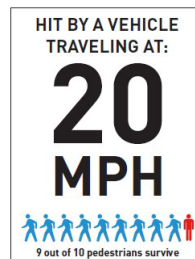
- Data-driven: Use data to clearly define the problem
- Identify implementable action strategies
 - Policies
 - Programs
 - Projects
 - Partnerships
- Metrics to track and monitor for accountability



NEIGHBORHOOD SLOW STREETS



- Work with neighborhoods to address egregious speeding and traffic safety
- Data driven process
- Low-cost/high-impact solutions



TOOLS IN OUR TOOLBOX



Speed Humps & Tables

TOOLS IN OUR TOOLBOX



Enhance Pavement Markings at Neighborhood Gateways & Install Speed Limit Signage

TOOLS IN OUR TOOLBOX



Mid-Block Crossing

TOOLS IN OUR TOOLBOX



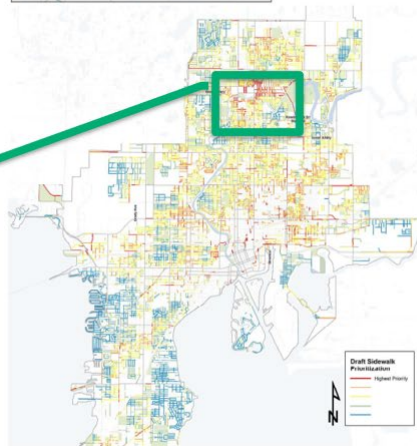
Painted Bulb-outs

TOOLS IN OUR TOOLBOX



All-way Stop Signs

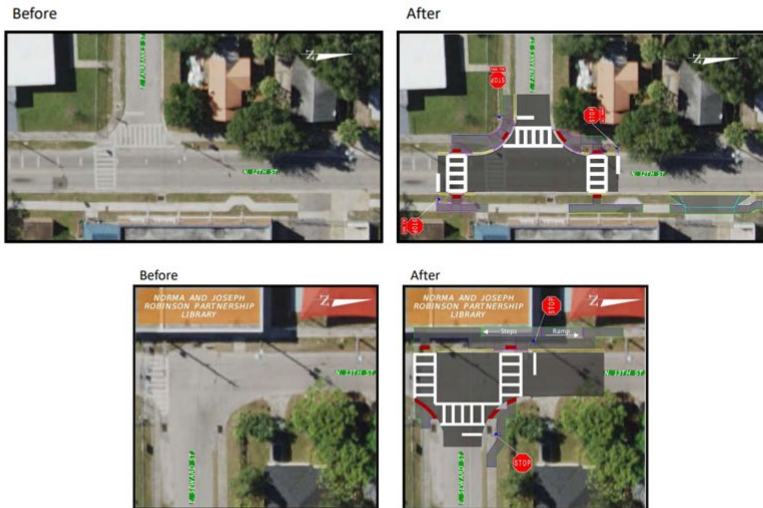
WHY SULPHUR SPRINGS?



UPCOMING PROJECTS



- Sulphur Springs Elementary Safe Routes to School



WELCOME



Sulphur Springs Neighborhood Plan

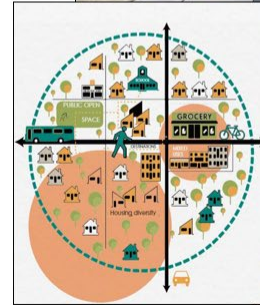




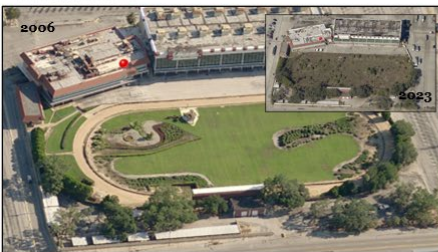
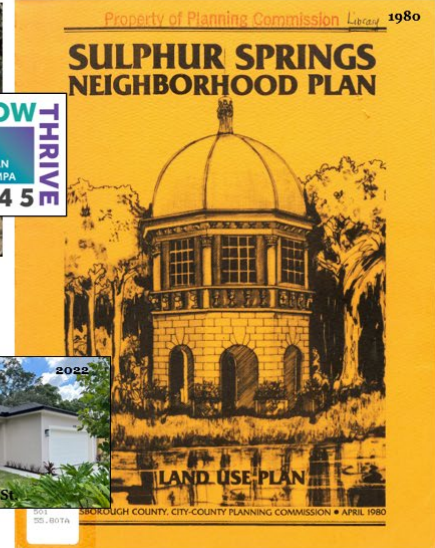
Creating a neighborhood plan

Goals:

- Identify specific neighborhood needs
- Establish a long-term vision
- Develop tangible actions to address needs and achieve long-term vision



WHY SULPHUR SPRINGS?



WHY SULPHUR SPRINGS?



Adderley – 128 Units Apartments at Nebraska Ave. and Busch Blvd.



City of Tampa infill program



WHAT WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH



Goal tonight:

Listen and gather initial feedback

WELCOME



Sulphur Springs

Table-top Exercise



FEEDBACK FROM YOU



Table-top Map Exercise:



Important community destinations & landmarks



Transportation issues (crossing, speeding, etc.)



Site specific issues (road is hard to cross, conflicts at intersection, trash or maintenance)



FEEDBACK FROM YOU



What elements of your neighborhood need to be preserved?



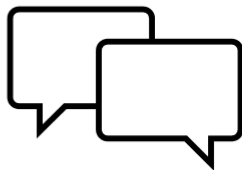
If you could improve one thing in your neighborhood, what would it be?



What issues would you like to see addressed by a neighborhood plan?



REPORT OUT



30-40 minutes discussion

Select speaker to report out what was discussed



Traffic Safety Project

- **Outreach**
 - Summer 2023
- **Design**
 - Summer-Fall 2023
- **Implementation**
 - Winter 2023/2024

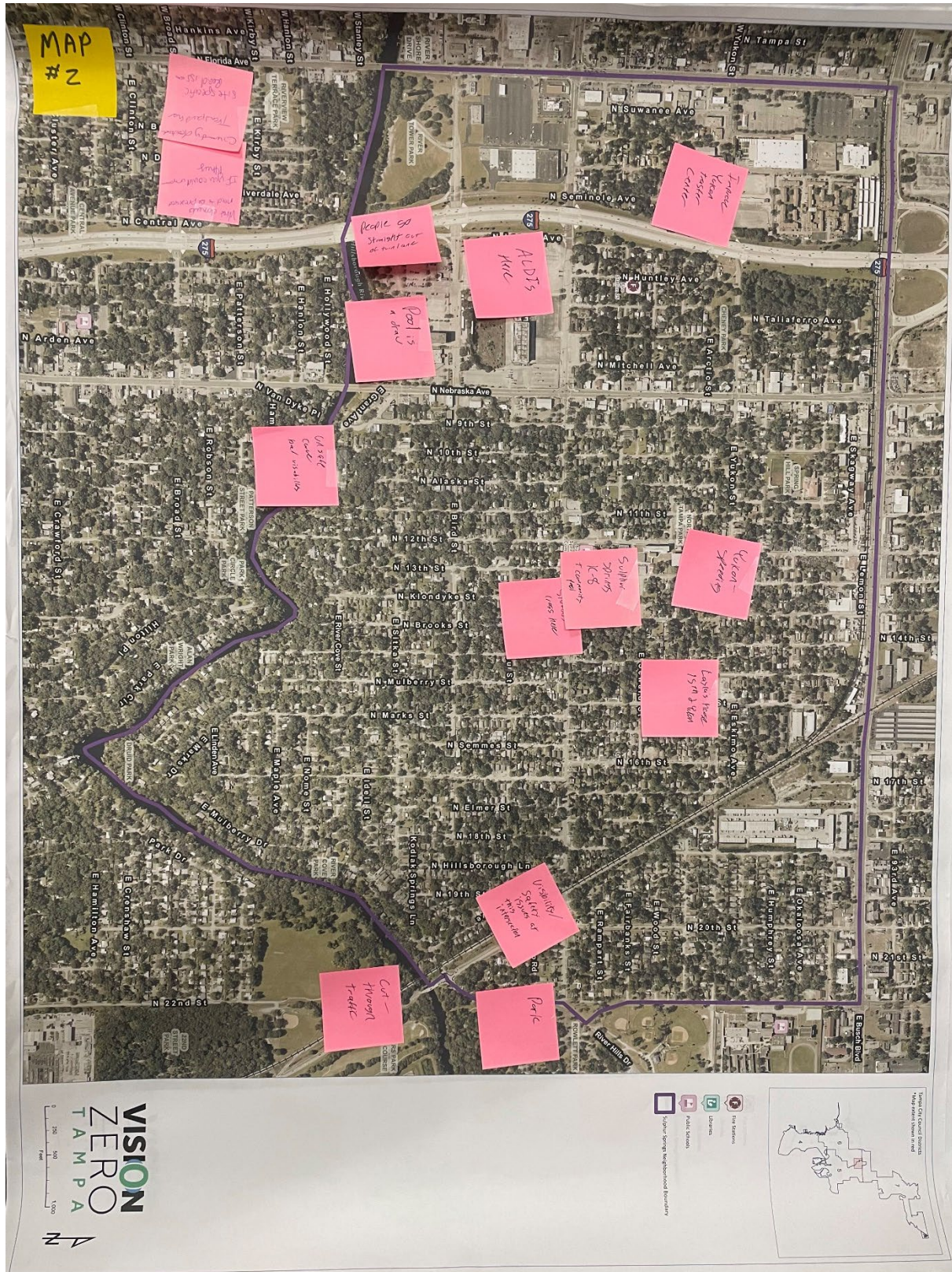
Neighborhood Plan

- **Projected Kick-off**
 - Fall 2023
- **Expected completion**
 - Fall 2024

Map 1 Comments

- Tower & Spring (preserve / important destination)
- Trash and homeless on walk beneath I-275
- Parcel at E. Grant Ave. Opportunity to develop/activate
- Speeding on Grant Ave.
- Family Dollar on Nebraska
- Sidewalk at Ninth Street and E. Waters Ave
- Stop sign needed at 12th Street and Bird
- Stop sign running at 12th and River Cover St.
- Sewer pump smell
- Mann fence
- Tree canopy
- Kids walk to school on East Waters Ave, more safety needed
- Speeding and passing on Yukon Street
- Sidewalks not continuous through neighborhood
- Potholes, especially on Yukon
- Enforce where cars park, obscures view
- Sight distance problem at 13th and River Cove
- School kids crossing, Waters and N. Brooks has palm trees blocking sight distance
- Industrial area on 13th St and Busch has been eyesore for decades
- Save-A-Lot
- East Bird and 12th Street needs a four-way stop control
- Racing on Brooks Street (cut through traffic) to get to Waters
- Speeding on Yukon
- Curbs are needed - erosion and debris (by river)
- If you add speed tables, put before stop near school on 12th St
- Busch and Nebraska HART stop was covered in trash, bench needed
- Bus stops on Waters needed, amenities & shade
- Litter along river #neighborhood
- Do not want multifamily housing (duplex) or apartment
- Homeownership important
- Housing affordability

Map 2



Map 2

- Grant Ave and River Cove area, unsafe curve, bad visibility
- People go straight out of turn lane (I-275)
- Pool is a draw
- ALDI's here (former Kmart site)
- Improve Yukon transfer center
- Speeding on Yukon
- Sulphur Springs K-8
- Layla's house, 15th and Yukon
- Students cross here (Waters Ave at Brooks and Klondye St intersections)
- Visibility/safety issues at this intersection (Waters and Rowlett Park Drive)
- Rowlett Park
- Cut through traffic (Rowlett Park Drive)

Map 3

- Lack of sidewalks
- Loose dogs everywhere
- Garbage dumping
- Crime and drugs
- Preserve trees
- Slumlords buying up properties, need to encourage ownership
- Historic designation
- Fence blocks line of sight when turning onto Busch (Brooks St and Busch Blvd area)
- Left turn light needed at Nebraska and Waters Ave
- Use hotels for social services
- Pool is great location, affordable to use
- Pool may have structural issues
- Preserve Springs Theater
- What should be done with old pool
- Preserve Water Tower #destination
- Close Grant Ave at Nebraska - very dangerous because people go wrong way
- Property just south of Grant Ave is a great opportunity for development
- Preserve museum
- Speeders along River Cove between 13th Street and Mark St, speed humps needed
- Trash and old stuff dumped on River Cove between Brooks Street and 14th Street
- More river access needed
- Dangerous blocks along Idell - crime

Map 4



Map 4

- River Tower Park add benches and make a Riverwalk (Like Julian B. Lane Park)
- River Tower Park - area for children to ride their 4 wheelers and bikes and go carts
- River Tower Park - put benches & picnic area, add parking
- Move theater at dog track site
- Sam's Club ATV track? Go karts?
- Traffic light at Waters Ave and Nebraska - need turn signal for vehicles making left turn onto Nebraska
- Busch and 12th RRFB - people ignore light
- Yukon speeding issues
- Dead ends at 15th and Yukon, 17th and Yukon - people living on Yukon between 15th and 17th Street use Sammes & 16th Street
- Speed bump on 17th St. from Yukon to Waters
- Speeding 8400 block of 17th Street
- No sidewalks
- Roads need repaving

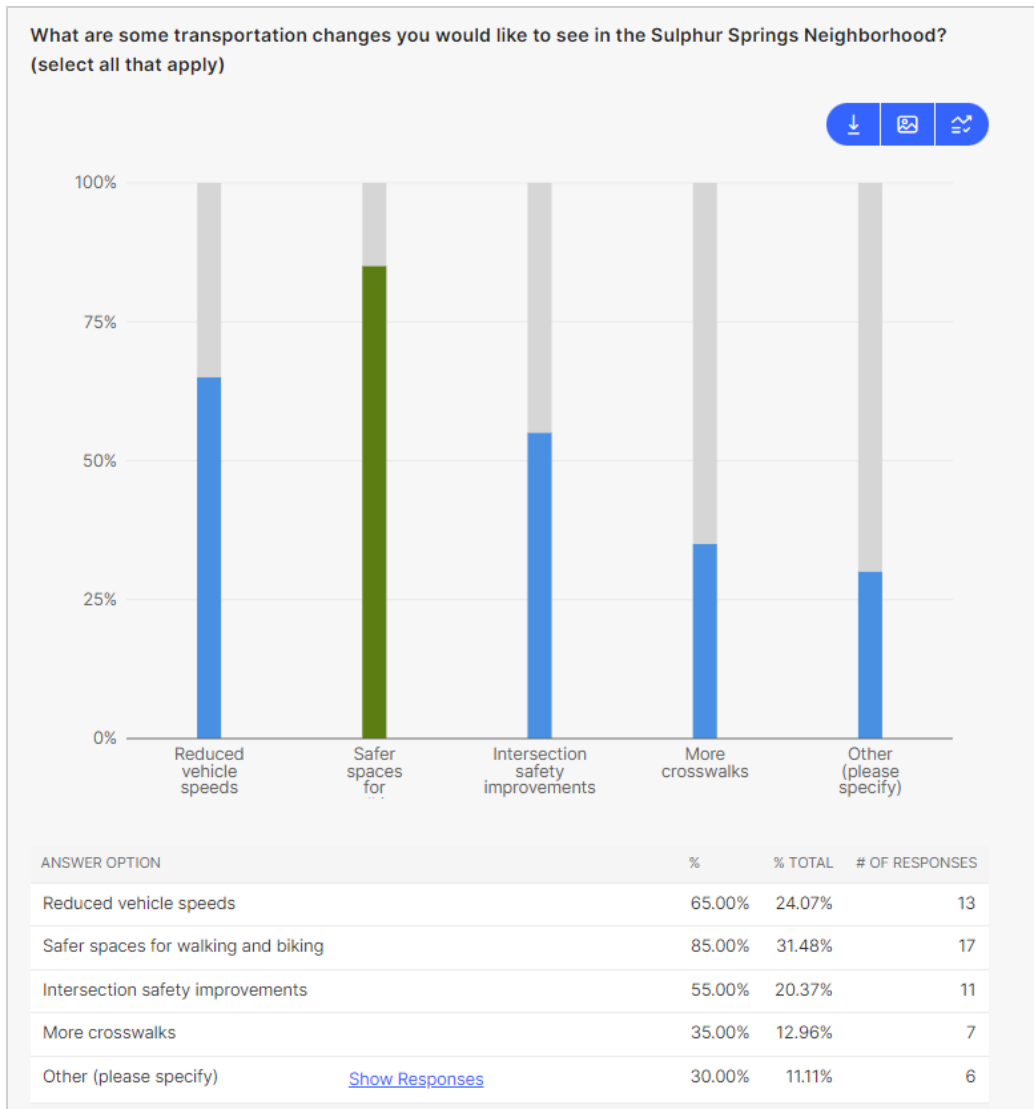
Map 5

- Bring back clean spring water
- Keep water tower
- Keep gazebo
- Repair walkway beneath I-275
- Keep pool
- Speeding on Sitka
- Grocery store a large opportunity / need, tax credits and hire people in this zip code, delivery (free)
- Free roaming dogs and feral cats
- Substation? (Nebraska north of Yukon)
- Improve bus access to interior of neighborhood
- Parking in front of mailboxes (Klondyke and E. Eskimo area)
- Speeding on 9th street
- Trash on 9th and Waters
- Homelessness
- Clean up the entire Sulphur Springs Area
- Need police drive and city clean up on North 9th Street between Waters and Bird
- Trash on streets (10th and Sitka area)
- Improve water quality of river, retention walls
- Reduce speeding on Waters, school zone - clearly mark
- Need speed tables on North Brooks, near school
- Crosswalk flashing light, ped xing (15th Street and Waters Ave)
- More police presence like before, bring back police on bike
- 12th and Eskimo, duplex resident has guests who park on both sides of the road - blocking mail boxes and driveways
- Code enforcement need teeth when dealing with duplex and rental property
- Increase homeownership
- Curbs?
- Trash cans - 2 blue, recycle
- Speeding on Mulberry Drive
- Rowlett Park and Mulberry Drive - broken, bridge repair
- Tower - what happened with it being a botanical garden
- Stop light or flashing light (Rowlett Park Drive and Riverhills)
- Empty houses being taken over by homeless
- Sidewalk parking enforcement problems
- After hours spot, transitional neighborhood

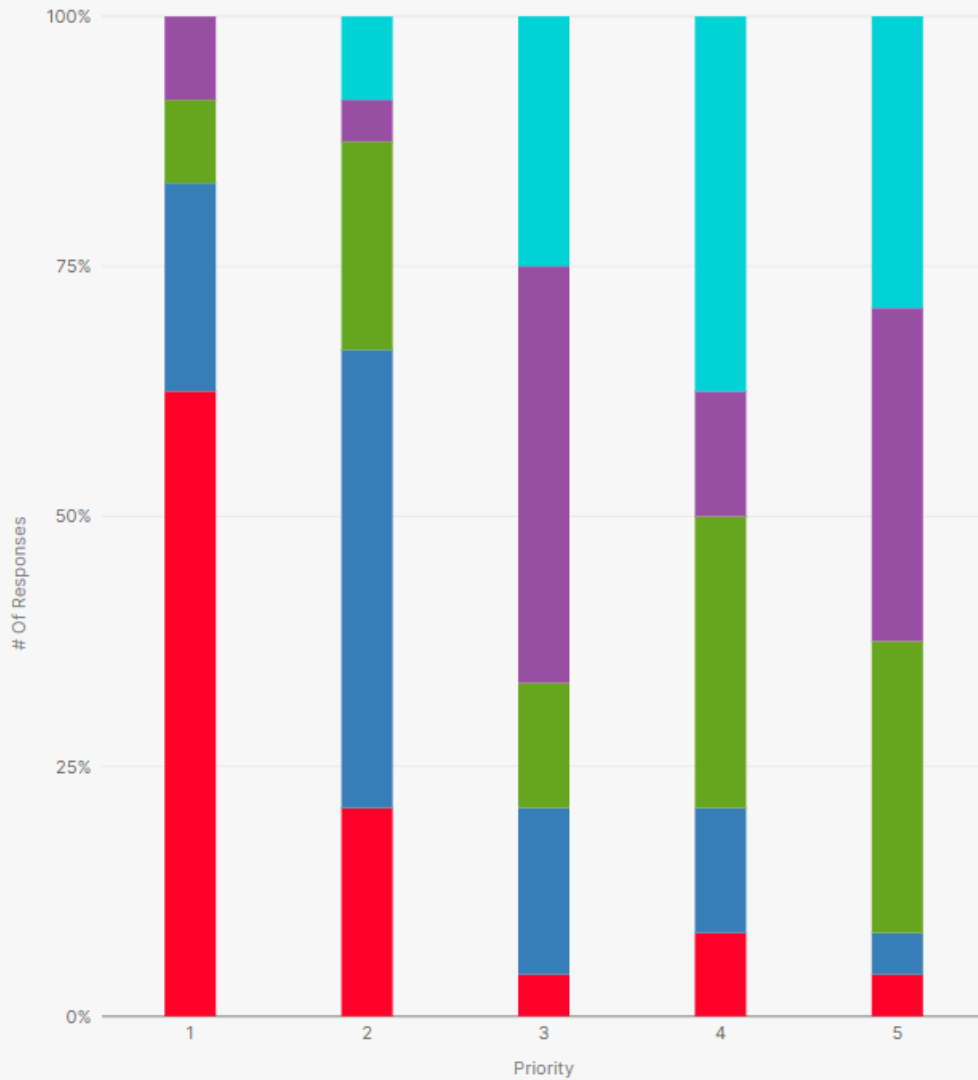
Appendix C – Online survey responses

Mapping tool responses

- Speeding along N 17th Street
- Speeding along Mulberry Drive from Rowlett Park Drive to Marks
- Speeding along East River Cove Street
- Safety issues at East Bird St and Semmes Street, request all-way-stop
- Speeding on Yukon
- Speeding on Bird
- Need more pedestrian crossings on Waters
- Poor lines of sight at Bird Street and North Hillsboro Lane
- Safety issues at Waters Ave and Rowlett Park Drive
- Speeding on Klondyke Street



Please rank which traffic calming and safety improvements would you most like to see in the Sulphur Springs neighborhood?



- Speed tables
- Pedestrian Crossing
- All-way-stop signs
- Street art
- Enhanced speed limit signage and pavement markings

ANSWER OPTION	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	TOTAL	SCORE
Speed tables	62.50% 15	20.83% 5	4.17% 1	8.33% 2	4.17% 1	24	1.71
Pedestrian Crossing	20.83% 5	45.83% 11	16.67% 4	12.50% 3	4.17% 1	24	2.33
All-way-stop signs	8.33% 2	20.83% 5	12.50% 3	29.17% 7	29.17% 7	24	3.50
Street art	8.33% 2	4.17% 1	41.67% 10	12.50% 3	33.33% 8	24	3.58
Enhanced speed limit signage and pavement markings	0.00% 0	8.33% 2	25.00% 6	37.50% 9	29.17% 7	24	3.88

If you could improve one thing in your neighborhood, what would it be?

Code enforcement should be much more active with zoning issues, litter abatement and homeless who use alleys as toilets.

Jun 19, 2023

more stop signs, speed bumps. more regulation on houses looking presentable

Jun 16, 2023

sidewalks and beautification

Jun 16, 2023

Speed bumps, more crosswalks, tree trimming and clean up of abandoned homes and lands.

Jun 14, 2023

Mhgxxv

Jun 13, 2023

I am a recent addition to the Sulphur Springs neighborhood, if I could improve one thing about my neighborhood it would be significantly lowering the criminal activity in the area. I would like the community to have more gatherings and events, but many people are put off by this because of the rate of shootings, thefts and other criminal activity. I would like to see a Sulphur Springs police hub to specifically address this issue placed in the neighborhood.

Jun 12, 2023

I would like for my voice to be heard and changes actually work for our good in my community

Jun 11, 2023

Sidewalk along river cove st. and other street in the neighborhood and need to have something to slow down the traffic

Jun 8, 2023

help with exterior home improvements

Jun 8, 2023

Fix storm drains so they are flush with the road surface (12th and Sitka). Install sidewalks on River Cove so people and children can get to the park and the bus stop without walking in the street. Install speed bumps on River Cove - the 4-way stop is not working, check the number of yraffuc tickets issued for running those intersections. Upgrade the lift station at 12th St so it doesn't stink so much and so often. Stop cutting down trees. Put back the fence at Mann Wagnon Park so it can be closed at night to stop drug addicts and prostitutes from using. Give all responsibility of Mann Wagnon Park to COT Parks - the County has torn down the historic buildings, removed shoreline vegetation and put a fence along the river - what a shameful way to honor the gift given to the community. Take care of the water tower that appears in so many graphics to represent our historic community but is decaying quickly.

Jun 8, 2023

I would like to attract more businesses that pay a living wage to our community.

Jun 8, 2023

The vibe

Jun 1, 2023

Do you have any other thoughts or ideas regarding traffic safety in the Sulphur Springs Neighborhood that you would like to share?

previous question had terrible format for answering. 4 way stop signs would help but few cars are obeying stop signs now

Jun 19, 2023

I would love the ability for sidewalks to be built and maintained in the Sulphur Springs neighborhood. There are crosswalks with overgrown trees that I think the city of Tampa should be able to assist with getting cleaned up. When there's blockage on the sidewalks, it doesn't make it easier for pedestrians- in fact, it forces the pedestrian back into the street and not on the sidewalk where they should be walking.

Jun 14, 2023

Its strange that some of the streets in Sulphur Springs do not have sidewalks on them but others have sidewalks. This creates quite the issue for pedestrians as it forces some of them to walk into the street or onto neighbors property. Installing sidewalks in these areas would be helpful and keep pedestrians safe.

Jun 12, 2023

No

Jun 11, 2023

we need better transit!

Jun 8, 2023

Yes, I would like for Hartline to bring back the neighborhood bus. We have many seniors and disabled that can't walk very far. Even if it was just a shuttle to the nearest bus stop it would be helpful.

Jun 8, 2023

It's ok

Jun 1, 2023