



CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HALF-MILLION DOLLARS AWARDED FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 8/18/06) – Temple Terrace’s downtown redevelopment project got a boost Wednesday when the Hillsborough County Commission awarded the city \$500,000 in Community Investment Tax funds for intersection improvements at Busch Boulevard and 56th Street.

The city intends to ask the county next week to apply those funds toward a matching County Incentive Grant to make even more upgrades in the vicinity, which include new signalization, crosswalks, sidewalks and lighting improvements. If the county approves the request, the application would be forwarded to the Florida Department of Transportation for funding.

The planned improvements are part of Temple Terrace’s redevelopment strategy for the 56th Street corridor, said Community Services Director Ralph Bosek. The city is in the process of creating a 38-acre New Urbanist center with retail, commercial, office and residential uses from Bullard Parkway to the Hillsborough River.

Analysts have identified 56th Street as a key component in the project’s success. Plans call for landscaping, additional signalization and many other improvements to the roadway.

“It’s the key access to downtown,” Bosek said. “If we do these improvements, we’re so much closer to making our redevelopment a success.”

“Another important key is the federal government has already given us \$2.1 million for improvements to that same road system,” Bosek added. “We should be able to decrease the congestion around the Busch/56th Street interchange and change the whole feel of that corridor. It’ll be a pedestrian haven.”

The city hopes to begin making those road improvements in the 2007-2008 fiscal year, coordinating the work with a new master developer for the downtown redevelopment project. A new developer should be on board by Nov. 1 of this year.

For more information contact Community Services Director Ralph Bosek at (813) 989-7131.

