

South Howard Flood Relief

Frequently Asked Questions



Will this project prevent all flooding?

- It will be built for a minimum 5-year/8-hour storm producing approx. 5 in. of rain.
- Modeling for a 100-year storm found that structural flooding would be significantly reduced and overall drainage would be quicker.
- *NO STORMWATER SYSTEM CAN PREVENT ALL FLOODING.*



Has the City done enough maintenance?

- City stormwater crews perform regular maintenance on the existing system.
- Maintenance is critical but isn't enough on its own.
- The drainage systems in Parkland Estates and Palma Ceia Pines are significantly undersized and overwhelmed during strong storms.



Why use a box culvert system?

- Gravity-based systems like box culverts are widely used in Tampa and cities across the U.S.
- Key advantages include:**
- Lower long-term maintenance needs.
 - Fewer failure points.
 - Ability to move large volumes of water quickly.



Will this project benefit Palma Ceia Pines?

- The project includes a pipe that connects north from Swann Ave. into Palma Ceia Pines, heading directly into the drainage pond under the HCA Florida South Tampa Hospital parking deck.
- This will turn that pond into a giant inlet that will also drain to the south.
- Future pipes within Palma Ceia Pines in a secondary phase would offer even more flood protection.
- No short term or standalone projects will significantly reduce flooding in Palma Ceia Pines.



How much will the project cost?

- The final Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) will be available Summer/Fall 2026.
- It is expected to exceed the 2022 cost estimate of \$65 million due to: an increased system size and rising construction costs.
- The City is continuing to pursue additional funding.



Will this project drain the stormwater assessment fund?

- About \$8.4 million will come from the Stormwater Assessment Fund.
- More than \$30 million will remain available for other stormwater projects.
- The City continues to seek additional funding for the project.



Will construction impact businesses along South Howard Avenue?

- The project will be built in segments to reduce impacts - each segment would close for approximately 5-7 weeks.
- Roads would be restored before moving to the next segment.
- The City and contractor are working closely with residents and businesses to minimize disruptions and maintain 24/7 access.
- Upgraded streetscape plans are being designed and include 10-foot sidewalks on both sides of Howard Avenue.



What other options were considered?

- Multiple alternatives were evaluated.
- Options were ruled out because they:
 - Take longer to implement.
 - Cost significantly more.
 - Create more community and construction impacts.
 - Provide less flood-relief benefit.
 - Risk existing funding.
- **The current plan provides the best balance of effectiveness, feasibility, cost, and community impact.**



Questions? Contact us!

For questions or concerns regarding project activities, please contact our Community Outreach Team.

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Your cooperation and patience are greatly appreciated as we make these community improvements.

