

Clearwater's Attractive Neighborhoods - November 17, 2016

In April of this year, The Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition performed a survey of residents in our neighborhoods. The survey contained a list of 18 neighborhood traits that we felt influenced the type of neighborhood people lived in. 344 surveys were returned with more than half of them containing additional comments about their neighborhood. On the positive side, two of the top three responses were bikeability and walkability in their neighborhood. A large portion of our residents like to walk and bike and feel it is good themselves, their neighborhood and community. Of the top five negative responses, the **overwhelming number one** in every responding neighborhood was traffic. Two of the other 4 negatives were sidewalk and curb maintenance and existence.

In every neighborhood that responded, residents realize that traffic is negatively affecting their neighborhood and its property values. They also realize that sidewalks are an important asset.

As a result of this survey, a public forum on neighborhood improvements, and other discussions at the CNC board meetings, we produced a CNC Position Paper urging you to lead the way to improving our neighborhoods. We feel this should be accomplished by focusing Penny for Pinellas IV funds into these improvements. Sidewalk and curb improvements; Traffic Calming; and marketing, promoting and expanding our wonderful bike trails.

We believe that Clearwater can have the FRIENDLIEST and SAFEST neighborhoods of any Florida City by the year 2030. We believe that Clearwater can be tagged a "Trail Town" and be an attractor of thousands of new residents to our city. We believe with your leadership this can all be accomplished!

In conclusion, Clearwater is in competition with surrounding communities that go out of their way to be neighborhood friendly. They are attracting millennial and other populations to their cities. By investing in our neighborhoods we will also attract these new residents. The CNC is happy to help in this effort. Thank you.

Please find attached:

- The CNC Position Paper
- Some Improvement Suggestions
- The Survey Summary outlining the positive and negative traits

Revised 11/17/16
#6 (H. March.)
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Here are some of the CNC suggestions:

- The next round of Penny for Pinellas is in process of being defined. The CNC feels that a sizeable portion should be spent the above mentioned improvements.
- At least one sidewalk on all streets, wider sidewalks if possible to invite human interaction.
- Consult with biking and walking enthusiasts and club representatives for enhancements to all our biking and pedestrian trails so that they are safe to use, especially when crossing collector streets and unsafe intersections. We appreciate the great efforts of your staff in this regard but more funding is needed to step up these efforts.
- Make the Pinellas Trail in Downtown Clearwater safer and more inviting. We support the concept of a spur off of the Pinellas Trail through Coachman Park as put forth at the Imagine workshops.
- Cleveland street through the Skycrest neighborhood was enhanced with traffic calming about ten years ago. The council went against some of staff recommendations and found the money to do what needed to be done. Now Cleveland street in that area is one of the nicest drives in Clearwater and the property values have gone up!
- In contrast check out the values of properties on collector streets like Keene road vs. similar properties in the same neighborhood off of the collector street. On the collector street the values are at least 20% less. We are letting our neighborhoods be devalued with traffic problems.
- Implement traffic calming in more neighborhoods.

CNC Position Paper - Neighborhood Improvement - September 12, 2016

The CNC surveyed Clearwater neighborhoods in April 2016. The surveys contained a list of 18 neighborhood traits that we felt influenced the type of neighborhood people lived in. We received 344 surveys returned with positive and negative trait responses. Of the top five negative responses, the overwhelming number one was traffic. Two of the other 4 were sidewalk repair and installation, and curb repair and installation. Two of the top three positive responses were bikeability and walkability in their neighborhood.

The CNC desires to help our neighborhoods become the best they can be. We believe the following items will have a dramatic positive effect on our neighborhoods:

- ❖ Neighborhood traffic calming devices including but not limited to narrowing streets, roundabouts, bulb outs, islands, and chokers.
- ❖ Speed tables have been used throughout the city in the past to curb traffic, but CNC believes speed tables do not follow the philosophy and intent of modern-day traffic calming, and should not be used unless no other options are available.
- ❖ Good curbs and wider sidewalks
- ❖ Easy access to walking and biking, including in the neighborhood and trails in the city

The CNC and Our neighborhoods will help implement a comprehensive neighborhood improvement strategy by:

- Helping to identify streets in need of sidewalk and curb improvement or replacement
- Meeting with neighborhood members to discuss and develop a traffic calming strategy
- Helping Promote Clearwater trails as an important reason to live in our city.

We believe that a significant portion of Clearwater's Penny for Pinellas IV should be devoted to improving our neighborhoods in the areas discussed above. This position was unanimously approved at the September 12th CNC Board Meeting.

**Sincerely,
Howard Warshauer, President
Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition**

	Excellent - Good - Just Okay - Needs Work - Terrible							
All Trait Responses	E	G	O	W	T	N/A	Total	W.Ave
Walkability	193	90	24	15	8	1	331	1.65
Housing conditions Block	160	127	20	18	6	0	331	1.74
Bikeability	134	113	50	19	4	11	331	1.89
Housing conditions Neighborhood	130	138	29	29	5	0	331	1.92
Shopping access	145	102	41	28	7	5	328	1.92
Convenience	117	130	60	13	3	7	330	1.93
Lawns cared for	114	143	33	28	4	7	329	1.96
Landscaping in public areas	110	131	43	24	3	10	321	1.97
Neighborliness	117	122	57	22	9	1	328	2.03
Safety	86	160	45	28	5	0	324	2.09
Parks and Recreation	97	114	42	34	9	27	323	2.14
Smells and Sounds	92	141	49	32	10	8	332	2.16
Crime	74	159	43	38	4	4	322	2.18
Codes compliance	80	140	55	22	14	12	323	2.20
Sidewalk conditions Block	83	100	42	29	16	51	321	2.24
Condition of street curbs	87	126	61	36	13	2	325	2.26
Public Transportation access	58	115	66	21	11	47	318	2.31
Sidewalk conditions Neighborhood	71	116	62	32	14	28	323	2.33
Cultural assets	62	106	62	32	10	45	317	2.35
Traffic conditions	56	121	55	53	38	1	324	2.68

41.95

Highest Positive Response Rating

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2.10

Walkability	1.65
Housing conditions Block	1.74
Bikeability	1.89
Housing conditions Neighborhood	1.92
Shopping access	1.92

Highest Negative Response Rating

Traffic conditions	2.68
Cultural assets	2.35
Sidewalk conditions Neighborhood	2.33
Public Transportation access	2.31
Condition of street curbs	2.26