

County awards \$500,000 grant to Temple Terrace

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The **Hillsborough County Commission** lent a hand to the struggling downtown redevelopment project in Temple Terrace by awarding the city \$500,000 in Community Investment Tax funds for intersection improvements at Busch Boulevard and 56th Street.

City officials, however, have other plans for the money as they expect to ask the county next week to apply those funds toward a matching County Incentive Grant to make even more upgrades to the intersection, including new signalization, crosswalks, sidewalks and lighting improvements.

"It's the key access to downtown," said Temple Terrace Community Services Director Ralph Bosek in a release. "If we do these improvements, we're so much closer to making our redevelopment a success."

Bosek mentioned that the federal government already has awarded the city \$2.1 million for improvement of that same traffic corridor, which they said would help decrease congestion around that intersection as well as make it more pedestrian friendly.

Road improvements could begin as early as next year, depending on if and when a new master developer is chosen to redevelop 38 acres of commercial property into a new mixed-use downtown core south of the 56h Street/Bullard Parkway intersection. Orlando-based **Unicorp National Developments dropped from the project last month** after acknowledging it would not be able to meet an August deadline to finalize a redevelopment plan with Sweetbay Supermarkets.