

City To Get Help With 2 Road Projects

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Hillsborough County's Transportation Task Force voted last week to assist Temple Terrace with two road projects and also plans to set aside \$4 million for design work to widen Fletcher Avenue to six lanes between Interstates 275 and 75.

County Commissioner Ken Hagan chairs the task force, which is charged with deciding how to spend \$500 million in transportation bonds. Half of the money would go to road projects, and the balance would be divided among transit, intersection improvements, right-of-way acquisition and traffic management.

Hagan said Temple Terrace's top priority is money to add a traffic signal at the intersection of Bullard Parkway and Sunnyside Road. The task force also voted to allocate \$1.8 million for the Telecom Parkway extension to Morris Bridge Road and the extension of Arbor Island Boulevard.

The funding for Fletcher Avenue was one of 13 road projects in unincorporated Hillsborough totaling \$222 million. The group expects to vote on the county list at its meeting May 21.

The Florida Department of Transportation categorizes Fletcher as a failed roadway. Bob Gordon, the county's public works director, said motorists from the University of South Florida and Temple Terrace would benefit from the potential widening.

'We have a lot of opportunity here to do something for this roadway - at least to get us started,' Gordon said.

The task force also voted to allocate \$10 million for three Tampa projects: 40th Street, Cross Creek Boulevard and the New Tampa Boulevard Bridge.