

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSE AN ADDITIONAL GRANT APPLICATION UNDER THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010, FOR THE MIAMI LAKEWAY AREA ENCOMPASSING BOTH MIAMI LAKES K-8 AND MIAMI LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVED SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT BY IMPLEMENTING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

### **Background**

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Grant Program enables and encourages children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school, by making pedestrian routes safer and more appealing, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age. The U.S. Department of Transportation implemented federal-aid highway funds legislation providing federal grant dollars for infrastructure improvements to establish SRTS programs at public schools nationwide for five fiscal years. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is processing all SRTS grant applications at the local level.

At its February 14, 2007, the School Board endorsed 35 schools for inclusion in the SRTS Program, which were submitted and approved by FDOT for infrastructure improvements totaling approximately \$5 million. The funding goes directly to Miami-Dade County Public Works, as the agency responsible for the construction and maintenance of the improvements. At its December 19, 2007 meeting the School Board endorsed an additional list of 10 schools for submittal under the next round of SRTS grant applications for fiscal year 2010. The FDOT application deadline is scheduled for April 30, 2008.

All 45 schools were chosen in collaboration with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Miami-Dade County Public Works Department (Public Works), based on having a large population of students that walk to school and are located in areas where there have been high instances of pedestrian traffic accidents involving children between the ages of five and thirteen.

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**Additional Schools Identified**

The Town of Miami Lakes has approached the District advising of plans to implement a greenway trail and a proposed safe route to schools segment for Miami Lakes K-8 Center and Miami Lakes Middle Schools, both located within the east side of the Miami Lakeway. According to crash data obtained from the MPO, this area is located within a high vehicle/pedestrian crash zone, with a total of 31 bicycle crashes and 61 pedestrian crashes that have occurred within the attendance boundary and 2-mile walking radii of both schools. These safety conditions make the schools eligible for SRTS funding. In order to improve the pedestrian safety of the two schools, the Town of Miami Lakes hired a traffic engineering firm to analyze the area and identify potential SRTS infrastructure improvements. Their recommendations are detailed in the Miami Lakeway Safe Route to School Report, which was submitted to The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Community Traffic Safety Team (Public Schools CTST) for review and was unanimously endorsed for transmittal under the SRTS fiscal year 2010 funding cycle.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**VICE CHAIR PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse an additional grant under the Safe Routes to School Program federal infrastructure grant program for the Miami Lakeway area encompassing both Miami Lakes K-8 and Miami Lakes Middle, and direct the Superintendent to formalize the grant application accordingly.