

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF TEN ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS FOR SUBMITTAL UNDER THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM, SPONSORED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**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 elementary 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, December 19, 2007 and April 16, 2008 meetings, the School Board endorsed the following 47 schools for inclusion in the SRTS Program.

1. Arcola Lake Elementary School
2. Charles R. Drew Elementary School
3. Earlington Heights Elementary School
4. Holmes Elementary School
5. Kelsey L. Pharr Elementary School
6. Lenora Braynon Smith Elementary School
7. Liberty City Elementary School
8. Lillie C. Evans Elementary School
9. Martin Luther King Elementary School
10. Miami Park Elementary School
11. Olinda Elementary School
12. Orchard Villa Elementary School
13. Poinciana Park Elementary School

14. Thena C. Crowder Elementary School
15. Dr. Henry W. Mack/West Little River Elementary School
16. Eugenia B. Thomas K-8 Center
17. Bob Graham Education Center
18. Van E. Blanton Elementary School
19. North Miami Elementary School
20. Riverside Elementary School
21. W.J. Bryan Elementary School
22. Pine Villa Elementary School
23. Amelia Earhart Elementary School
24. Miami Shores Elementary School
25. Caribbean Elementary School
26. Ludlam Elementary School
27. Henry M. Flagler Elementary School
28. Joella C. Good Elementary School
29. Southside Elementary School
30. Melrose Elementary School (\*)
31. South Pointe Elementary School
32. Barbara Hawkins Elementary School
33. Fulford Elementary School
34. Dr. Robert B. Ingram Elementary School (\*)
35. Flamingo Elementary School
36. Avocado Elementary School (\*)
37. Campbell Drive Elementary School
38. Leisure City K-8 Center (\*)
39. Coconut Palm K-8 Academy (\*)
40. Irving and Beatrice Peskoe Elementary School
41. Redondo Elementary School (\*)
42. South Miami Heights Elementary School
43. Laura C. Saunders Elementary School
44. West Homestead Elementary School
45. William A. Chapman Elementary School
46. Miami Lakes K-8 Center
47. Miami Lakes Middle School

These schools were chosen in collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Community Traffic Safety Team (Public Schools CTST), whose members include representatives from the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Miami-Dade County Public Works Department (Public Works). The list reflects those schools that have 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. The required engineering studies were funded through MPO grants and FDOT consultants.

#### **SRTS Program Awards**

Thus far, of the 47 schools submitted by the School District, FDOT has selected a total of 41 schools for funding under the SRTS Program. These schools will receive over

\$6,200,000 for necessary infrastructure improvements. The six schools that did not receive funding (as noted with asterisks above) will be re-submitted by the District for further consideration by FDOT at its next round of application submittals due April 30, 2009.

### **Additional Schools Identified**

Recognizing the safety and health benefits of the SRST program, the Public Schools CTST has established a goal of providing a SRTS for all elementary and middle schools in the District. Due to limited funding sources for the required engineering studies, and pursuing the goal of completing studies for qualifying schools, the Public Schools CTST has partnered with the Florida International University (FIU) Engineering Division, and the Florida Engineering Society (FES) Miami Chapter, to perform the engineering studies for newly identified schools. The FIU students will perform the work under the direction and supervision of licensed engineers. To assist in the prioritization and selection process for the next round of schools, the FIU/FES team has developed a priority school matrix. The following are the top ranked schools, identified for submittal under the next round of SRTS grant applications for fiscal year 2011, along with the six schools referenced above.

1. Ernest R Graham Elementary School
2. Brentwood Elementary School
3. Maya Angelou Elementary School
4. Meadowlane Elementary School
5. Winston Park K-8 Center
6. Coral Way K-8 Center
7. Ben Sheppard Elementary School
8. Devon Aire K-8 Center
9. Spanish Lake Elementary School
10. Gertrude K. Edelman/Sabal Palm Elementary School

### **ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**PERLA TABARES HANTMAN, BOARD MEMBER:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse ten additional schools for submittal under the Safe Routes to School infrastructure grant program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation, and direct the Superintendent to formalize the grant applications accordingly.