

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-137 SUPPORTING U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL 4021: "SAFE ROUTES TO HIGH SCHOOLS ACT", AND REQUEST ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE PROPOSED PROGRAM**

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

**LINK TO DISTRICT**

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

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Grant Program (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 for school children. 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. However, only elementary and middle schools are eligible for funding; senior highs are specifically excluded.

Recognizing a grave gap in the current Program, U.S. House of Representatives Bill 4021, the "Safe Routes to High Schools Act", seeks to make all high schools eligible for federal SRTS funding. It is critical to include high school students in the program, as it would encourage more physical activity, promote healthy and green transportation habits, and provide key traffic safety lessons that will be learned as they walk or bike, which ultimately help them become better drivers. However, it is important that current funding levels for elementary and middle schools not be diluted. As such, it is further requested that the Safe Routes to High Schools Act include additional funding.

In addition, it is further requested that the School Board amend its 2010 Federal Legislative Program to include support of the referenced Bill.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**VICE CHAIR PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve:

1. Resolution No. 09-137 supporting U.S. House of Representatives Bill 4021: "Safe Routes to Schools High School Act", and request additional federal funding for the proposed program; and
2. Amend the Board's 2010 Federal Legislative Program to include support of Bill 4021.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-137  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
SUPPORTING U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL 4021: SAFE ROUTES TO  
SCHOOLS HIGH SCHOOL ACT, AND REQUEST ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE  
PROPOSED PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, promotes and encourages student pedestrian safety in all Miami-Dade County Public School levels, from K-12; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 for school children; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation implemented federal-aid highway funds legislation providing federal grant dollars for infrastructure improvements to establish SRTS programs at elementary and middle public schools nationwide; senior highs are specifically excluded; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing a grave gap in the current Program, U.S. House of Representatives Bill 4021, the Safe Routes to High Schools Act, seeks to make all high schools eligible for federal SRTS funding; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to include high school students in the program, as it would encourage more physical activity, promote healthy and green transportation habits, and provide key traffic safety lessons that will be learned as they walk or bike, which ultimately help them become better drivers; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to preserve and not dilute the allocated funding for the elementary and middle schools, it is further requested that the Safe Routes to High Schools Act include additional funding.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approves Resolution No. 09-137 supporting U.S. House of Representatives Bill 4021: "Safe Routes to Schools High School Act", and request additional federal funding for the proposed program.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

**Presented this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D. 2010**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary