

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: EXPLORE THE CREATION OF A COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP PLAN

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

Miami-Dade County, like many urban communities, has a high degree of traffic congestion. Many agencies including the Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade County, the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, local municipalities and the Metropolitan Planning Organization routinely develop and implement plans with the intent of reducing traffic congestion in our community.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools transports nearly 60,000 students a day on 1220 buses; however, while the cost to the District is nearly \$74 million, the state of Florida only provides approximately \$24 million in transportation funding. In addition, the District purchases Metrorail and bus passes from the Miami-Dade County at a cost approximately \$1.2 million. In general, the students transported on District busses live further than 2 miles from their assigned schools; however, there are many students who live within the 2 mile transportation boundary who are transported to school daily in individual cars often creating long lines at drop-off and pick-up time and adding to traffic congestion around schools.

Each of the agencies referenced above has access to funding for transportation infrastructure, and in many cases operate their own bus, trolley, or shuttle services. It seems logical that by leveraging the resources of other community and/or governmental entities to increase student access to public transportation and/or ride sharing programs, particularly within the 2 mile radius of individual schools, the entire community would be served by reducing the number of trips on the road, limiting congestion around schools, and reducing carbon emissions.

Historically, this Board and administration have worked diligently to maximize the benefit to students, parents, the community, and the taxpayers through innovative and efficient use of public funds and resources. Through collaboration with our local government and community partners further efficiencies may be brought to the issue of student transportation. Therefore, as the Superintendent and his staff have done in past through the creation of education compacts and other cutting edge agreements that leverage public resources to the maximum community benefit, M-DCPS should explore the creation of a community transportation partnership plan.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, support the Superintendent in his efforts to explore the creation of a Community Transportation Partnership Plan.