

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

SUBJECT: ENDORSE THE SAFE KIDS WALK THIS WAY 2009 ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE GRANT, FUNDED BY FEDEX, AND DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FORMALIZE THE GRANT APPLICATION ACCORDINGLY

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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

Background

The Miami Children’s Hospital Safe Kids USA Coalition has partnered with the School District for many years promoting pedestrian safety, such as participating in the International Walk Your Child to School Day. FedEx, sponsor of Safe Kids USA, has announced the availability of \$10,000 in grant funding to support Safe Kids coalitions in the State. The purpose of the grant is to develop or advance current pedestrian safety task forces that focus on making environmental modifications to improve conditions for child pedestrians. The impetus behind the grant is the staggering national statistic that each year more than 400 child pedestrians are killed as a result of vehicle crashes. Long-term environmental modifications based on assessments of need are critical to the safety of child pedestrians. Interventions such as crossing guards, speed enforcement campaigns and traffic calming have helped reduce child pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

Task Force Funding

Coalitions who are awarded 2009 task force funding must accomplish the following objectives:

- Convene a task force comprised of key individuals interested in the issue of child pedestrian safety, and hold regular meetings.
- Make environmental modifications to a target location to improve conditions for child pedestrians. Provide before and after photos as evidence of the modification.
- Utilize local media to educate the community about the initiative and the resulting environmental modification(s) achieved by the task force.

- Evaluate the impact of the resulting environmental modification on child pedestrians in the area, and continue to collect data on the intervention site for two years.
- Demonstrate an effort to attain additional funding to support task force initiatives.

The grant, if awarded, would be a perfect opportunity to advance the safety goals of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST). The CTST was endorsed by the Board on April 18, 2006, with membership comprised of representatives from: Miami-Dade County Public Works, Law Enforcement Officers, Miami-Dade County Police Crossing Guard Unit, Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle Pedestrian Program, local governments, South Florida engineering community and School Board MPO Liaison.

It is recommended that the Board endorse the Safe Kids Walk This Way 2009 Environmental Task Force Grant, funded by FedEx, and if awarded, use the funds to advance the safety goals and objectives of the CTST. The District will work with the CTST in an attempt to have some portion of the grant funds utilized to make environmental modifications at one or more public school locations.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the Safe Kids Walk This Way 2009 Environmental Task Force grant, funded by FedEx, and direct the Superintendent to formalize the grant application accordingly.