

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF 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

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Village of Palmetto Bay and the City of Miami Beach have collaborated with the School District, the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Public Schools Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST), to develop Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Grant applications for schools located in each respective city. Palmetto Bay received an MPO Grant to perform the requisite engineering studies for schools located within the city limits and will be sponsoring applications for Coral Reef Elementary, Perrine Elementary and Howard Drive Elementary. The City of Miami Beach will be performing in-house engineering studies and sponsor an application for Biscayne Elementary School.

The SRTS 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. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is processing all SRTS grant applications at the local level.

For informational purposes, since 2007, the School Board has endorsed and submitted 59 SRTS applications. Thus far, FDOT has selected a total of 54 schools for funding. These schools will receive approximately \$9,000,000 for necessary infrastructure improvements. The remaining five schools that were not awarded funding will be re-submitted by the District, along with the four new projects as noted above, for further consideration by FDOT at its next round of application submittals, which are due March 31, 2011.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse 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.