

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 Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) 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. Since 2007, the School Board has endorsed and submitted 63 SRTS applications, all of which have been selected by FDOT for funding necessary infrastructure improvements, totaling over \$9,000,000.

The Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), in partnership with the District and the Public Schools Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST), is funding a study to augment the current prioritization for SRTS infrastructure improvements for the remaining elementary and K-8 schools that have not yet participated in the program. The school prioritization process is formulated on the "Safety-based Prioritization of Schools for SRTS Infrastructure Projects" developed by the National Center for Safe Routes to Schools, and includes pedestrian and bicyclist safety, traffic volume, number of students currently walking and bicycling to school, potential for attracting additional students to walk or bike to school, and auto ownership for families near the school.

The following ten schools were identified as priority schools under this new process. The MPO consultant will perform the requisite engineering studies at these schools.

- Jesse J. McCrary, Jr. Elementary
- Kensington Park Elementary
- Linda Lentin K-8 Center
- Natural Bridge Elementary
- North Hialeah Elementary
- Oak Grove Elementary
- Phillis Wheatley Elementary
- Phyllis Ruth Miller Elementary
- Santa Clara Elementary
- Toussaint L'ouverture Elementary

In addition, the Village of Pinecrest (Village) has collaborated with the school district, the MPO and the CTST, to develop SRTS Infrastructure Grant applications for schools located within its boundaries. The Village received an MPO Grant to perform the requisite engineering studies, and will be sponsoring and developing applications for Pinecrest Elementary and Palmetto Elementary schools.

The twelve applications will be submitted by the District as co-applicant for consideration by FDOT for the SRTS 2012 application cycle, due April 30, 2012.

**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.