

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS FOR SUBMITTAL UNDER THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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

The Federal Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) was created in 2005 to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school, by making pedestrian routes safer and more appealing. In 2012, Congress passed a new transportation bill: Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), which, unlike previous legislation, does not specifically earmark funding for SRTS. SRTS will now be eligible to compete for funding, under a new program called Transportation Alternatives. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is processing all SRTS grant applications at the local level.

The District's goal is to provide SRTS improvements for all public schools. Since 2007, the School Board has endorsed and submitted 75 SRTS applications. Funds totaling over \$10.6 million have been awarded for necessary infrastructure improvements.

Due to limited funding, a prioritized list of remaining schools which have not yet participated in the program was developed in 2012. The prioritization study was headed by the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), in partnership with the District and the Public Schools Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST). The school prioritization matrix was modeled 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. In selecting schools, other factors are also considered such as recent pedestrian related incidents/concerns, and collaboration with municipalities to leverage available funds.

The following schools were identified as priority schools under this new process. MPO general planning consultants will perform the requisite engineering studies.

- Silver Bluff Elementary
- Citrus Grove Elementary
- Norman S. Edelcup/Sunny Isles Beach K-8
- Morningside K-8 Academy
- James H. Bright/J.W. Johnson Elementary
- Shenandoah Elementary
- Fairlawn Elementary
- Kinloch Park Elementary and Kinloch Park Middle
- Hialeah Gardens Elementary
- Nathan B. Young Elementary

In addition, the City of Miami Beach (City) and Town of Cutler Bay (Town) have collaborated with the school district, the MPO and the CTST, to develop SRTS Infrastructure Grant applications for schools located within their respective boundaries. The City will perform the requisite engineering studies, and will be sponsoring and developing applications for the following four (4) schools.

- Fienberg/Fisher K-8 Center
- North Beach Elementary
- Nautilus Middle
- Miami Beach Senior High

The Town will perform the requisite engineering studies, and will be sponsoring and developing applications for the following school.

- Cutler Ridge Middle

All referenced applications will be submitted by the District as co-applicant for consideration by FDOT for the SRTS 2013 and 2014 application cycles.

**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 authorize the Superintendent to formalize the grant applications accordingly.