

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD EXPLORATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING THE SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUTER SERVICES SCHOOL POOL PROGRAM AT INTERESTED SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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

The South Florida Commuter Services (SFCS) was created under the auspices of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in 1989 to alleviate traffic congestion on major roadways by encouraging commuters to use alternative modes of transportation to get to work. Building on its successes, in 2005 SFCS started the School Pool Program, a free service, to help alleviate traffic congestion around schools. The Program utilizes ride-match software to allow for flexible scheduling and works by encouraging and promoting students and their families to carpool and bicycle or walk to and from school with other children. Information provided to SFCS is kept confidential, and only an e-mail address or cell phone number is provided to the sharing families. SFCS is an FDOT program that in addition to seeking reduced traffic congestion around our schools, also aims to increase traffic safety. As such, implementation of such a program by our schools would not increase the exposure of liability to our District.

To initiate the Program, SFCS will perform a traffic analysis at an interested school and make cost-free recommendations on how to effectively improve the flow of morning and afternoon traffic around the school property. SFCS has been successfully implemented at school districts in Broward, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties. The free service benefits over 50 schools in South Florida, with over 15,000 students in the SFCS database. In addition, SFCS promotes safety by distributing materials on topics ranging from "no-texting-while-driving", pedestrian awareness, and a "no idling" campaign to encourage drivers to turn off vehicles when waiting in carlines to reduce emissions.

Interested schools are encouraged to visit the SFCS dedicated website for more school pool information: www.goschoolpool.com.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, request the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of implementing the South Florida Commuter Services School Pool Program at interested schools.