

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. SRTS also plays a critical role in reversing the alarming nationwide trend toward childhood obesity and inactivity. In 2012 the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century" (MAP-21) Transportation Bill was enacted, which did not specifically earmark funding for SRTS, but instead included the SRTS Program along with a variety of other enhancement programs to compete for federal dollars under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is processing all TAP 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 91 SRTS applications. Funds totaling over \$13.5 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 2013. 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, and number of students currently walking and bicycling to 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.

- Lakeview Elementary
- Arch Creek Elementary combined with North Miami Middle
- Eneida Massas Hartner Elementary combined with José de Diego Middle
- Edison Park K-8 Center
- Comstock Elementary
- Lorah Park Elementary
- Gragny Elementary
- Hibiscus Elementary
- Sweetwater Elementary
- Crestview Elementary

In addition, the Village of Key Biscayne and Village of Palmetto Bay will be collaborating with the District, and its transportation partners, to develop SRTS Infrastructure Grant applications for schools located within their respective jurisdictions.

The Village of Key Biscayne will perform the requisite engineering studies, and will be sponsoring the development of an application for the following school.

- Key Biscayne K-8 Center

The Village of Palmetto Bay will perform the requisite engineering studies, and will be sponsoring the development of applications to fund additional infrastructure improvements at the following previously selected/awarded schools.

- Howard Drive Elementary
- Coral Reef Elementary
- Dr. Henry E. Perrine Academy of the Arts

All referenced applications will be submitted by the District as co-applicant for consideration by FDOT for the TAP 2015 application cycle.

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