

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, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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. 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 104 SRTS applications. Funds totaling over \$18 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 School Prioritization Matrix has served as the primary selection tool for the past four years.

The following schools were identified as priority schools for the next available SRTS application cycle. MPO general planning consultants will perform the requisite engineering studies.

- Bunche Park Elementary
- Carrie P. Meek/Westview K-8 Center
- Flagami Elementary
- Florida City Elementary

- Hubert O. Sibley K-8 Academy
- Miami Gardens Elementary
- Myrtle Grove K-8 Center
- North Twin Lakes Elementary
- Robert Russa Moton Elementary
- Shadowlawn Elementary

In addition, the City of Sunny Isles Beach (City) and District are currently in discussions to develop a SRTS Infrastructure Grant Application for the following school located within the City's municipal boundaries:

- Norman S. Edelcup/Sunny Isles Beach K-8

All referenced applications will be submitted by the District as co-applicant for consideration by FDOT for the next available SRTS 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.