

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

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. 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 121 SRTS applications. Funds totaling over \$23 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 Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), 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 for the next SRTS application cycle. TPO general planning consultants will perform the requisite engineering studies.

- Everglades K-8 Center, Unincorporated Miami-Dade County
- Norland Elementary, City of Miami Gardens
- Norland Middle, City of Miami Gardens

- Ojus Elementary, Unincorporated Miami-Dade County
- Airbase K-8 Center, Unincorporated Miami-Dade County
- Mandarin Lakes K-8 Center, Unincorporated Miami-Dade County
- Seminole Elementary, Unincorporated Miami-Dade County
- Miami Edison High, City of Miami
- Olympia Heights Elementary, Unincorporated Miami-Dade County
- West Miami Middle, City of Miami

In addition, the Town of Miami Lakes will be collaborating with the District, and its transportation partners, to develop a SRTS Infrastructure Grant application for Bob Graham Education Center, located within their respective jurisdiction.

All referenced applications will be submitted by the District as a co-applicant for consideration by FDOT for the 2018 TAP application cycle.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
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.