

Mr. Roberto J. Alonso, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO SUPPORT A PILOT PROJECT TO PROVIDE PROTECTED BIKE LANES FOR SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

The Miami-Dade County Public School System is the third largest in the nation with over 300 elementary, K-8, and middle school facilities. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) the most fatal and serious accidents involving bicyclists occur at non-intersection locations, with nearly one-third of these accidents involving motorists attempting to overtake bicyclists which can lead to severe injury. FHWA advises that providing dedicated lanes for the use of bicyclists and motor vehicles can mitigate or prevent interactions, conflicts, and accidents between bicyclists and motor vehicles, and creates a network of safer roadways for bicycling.

According to countywide statistics published by the Florida Traffic Safety Dashboard, in 2022, there were 281 serious injuries and 106 fatalities resulting from bicycle and pedestrian crashes in Miami-Dade County, with 14 serious injuries (approximately 5%) and 1 fatality (approximately 1%) involving children under the age of fifteen (15).

The Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) has been a longstanding partner with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to help improve student pedestrian and bicycle safety. Recognizing the need to further enhance safety for student bicyclists, the TPO approved an initiative to identify schools that will benefit from the implementation of a safe bicycle lane pilot program through the TPO SMART Street Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP). The SMART STEP initiative was created to facilitate interagency coordination, innovation, and accelerated implementation of pedestrian and bicycle improvement projects on County and State roads that increase connectivity and enhance safety in Miami-Dade County.

This item directs the Miami-Dade Superintendent of Schools to explore the feasibility of collaborating with the Miami-Dade TPO Executive Director or designee to identify public elementary, K-8 and middle school facilities throughout Miami-Dade County for the implementation of a TPO-funded safe bicycle lane pilot program.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. ROBERTO J. ALONSO:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, requests that the Superintendent of Schools explore the feasibility of;

1. collaborating with the Miami-Dade TPO Executive Director or designee to identify (1) public elementary, K-8 and middle school facilities in each Board Member District for the potential implementation of a safe, barrier-protected bicycle lane pilot program funded through the SMART Street Transportation Enhancement program (STEP);
2. assisting the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), together with District Administration, School Police, School Administration, and the Office of Community Engagement, with the successful planning, outreach, and implementation of the pilot program; and
3. to provide a report on the implementation of this action at the Facilities and Construction Committee Meeting in February 2024.