

2026

Safe Routes to School



Miami-Dade Transportation
Planning Organization

The Miami-Dade TPO prepares SRTS infrastructure funding application reports annually. Through a review of past applications, eight (8) schools were identified for the FY 2026 cycle, and two (2) schools (Mae M. Walters Elementary School and Henry H. Filer Middle School) were both selected as the best candidates for SRTS improvements in the FY 2026 funding cycle, as seen in **Figure 1**.

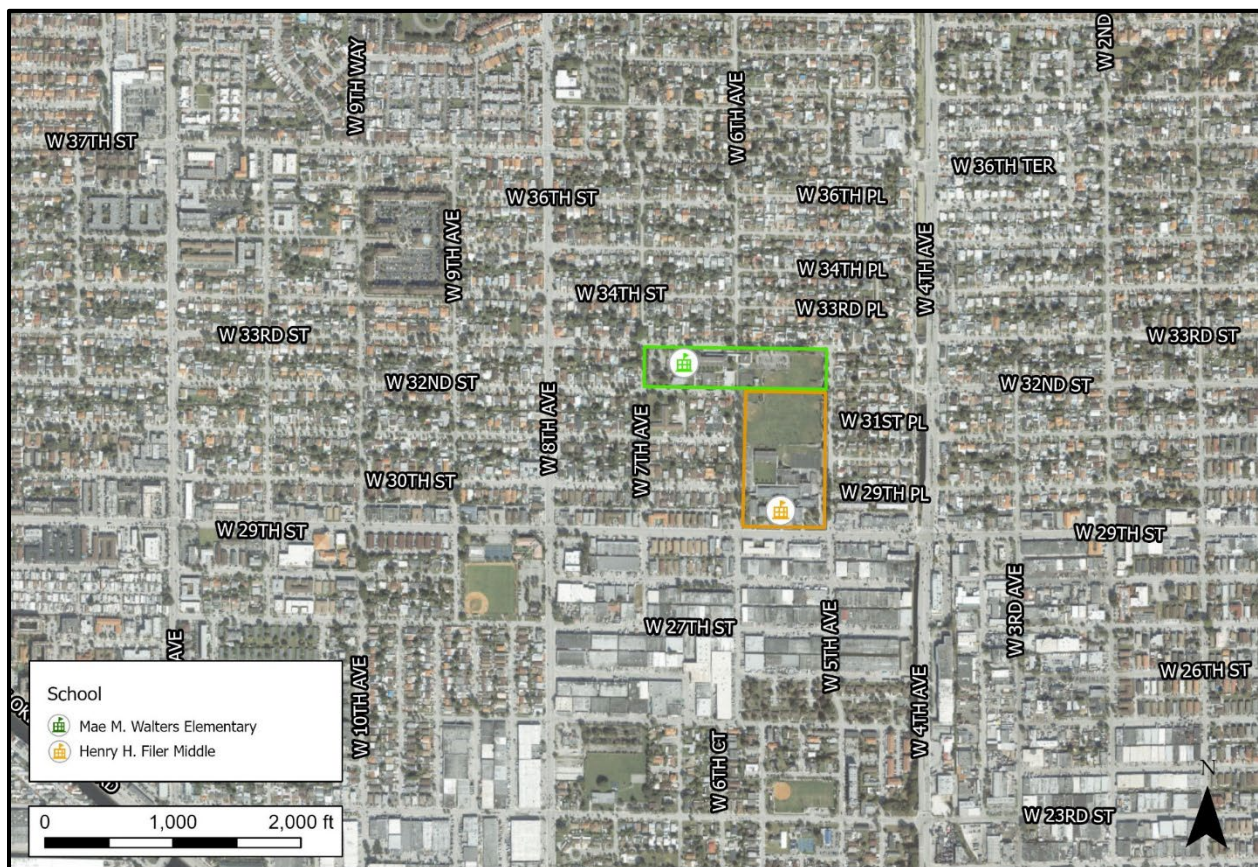


Figure 1: SRTS FY 2026 Selected Schools Map

Overview

The Miami-Dade County SRTS program is a collaborative initiative aimed at enhancing pedestrian and bicyclist safety for students commuting to and from school, improving overall student health and physical activity in return. The Miami-Dade TPO manages the Miami-Dade SRTS Infrastructure Plans Program, in conjunction with partnering agencies including FDOT District 6, MDCPS, DTPW, and the University of Miami (UM) BikeSafe/WalkSafe program. The program primarily focuses on the following:

- **Infrastructure Enhancements:** Development of safer routes are implemented by installing or upgrading sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic control devices, and signage in the vicinity of selected schools.
- **Educational Initiatives:** MDCPS implemented pedestrian safety education through the UM BikeSafe/WalkSafe program in 2001. The program encourages active transportation while teaching essential pedestrian and cyclist safety skills.
- **Community Engagement:** The Miami-Dade TPO engages the community by hosting public meetings and virtual sessions to collect feedback and address safety improvements. A public meeting was held on December 15, 2025 at the James S. Walker Community Center in Hialeah to discuss the FY 2026 Safe Routes to School projects.

There are a variety of approaches to involving the public in this process, aiming to educate surrounding populations on the importance of safe multimodal transportation to and from school. Approaches may also involve municipal and district policies to support safe walking and biking through public surveys and forums to identify community transportation barriers and opinions on potential projects. Successful SRTS programs include a “Five E’s” approach to support safe walking and biking, including emphasis towards Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation. Further details on the Five E’s are provided in **Figure 2** below.

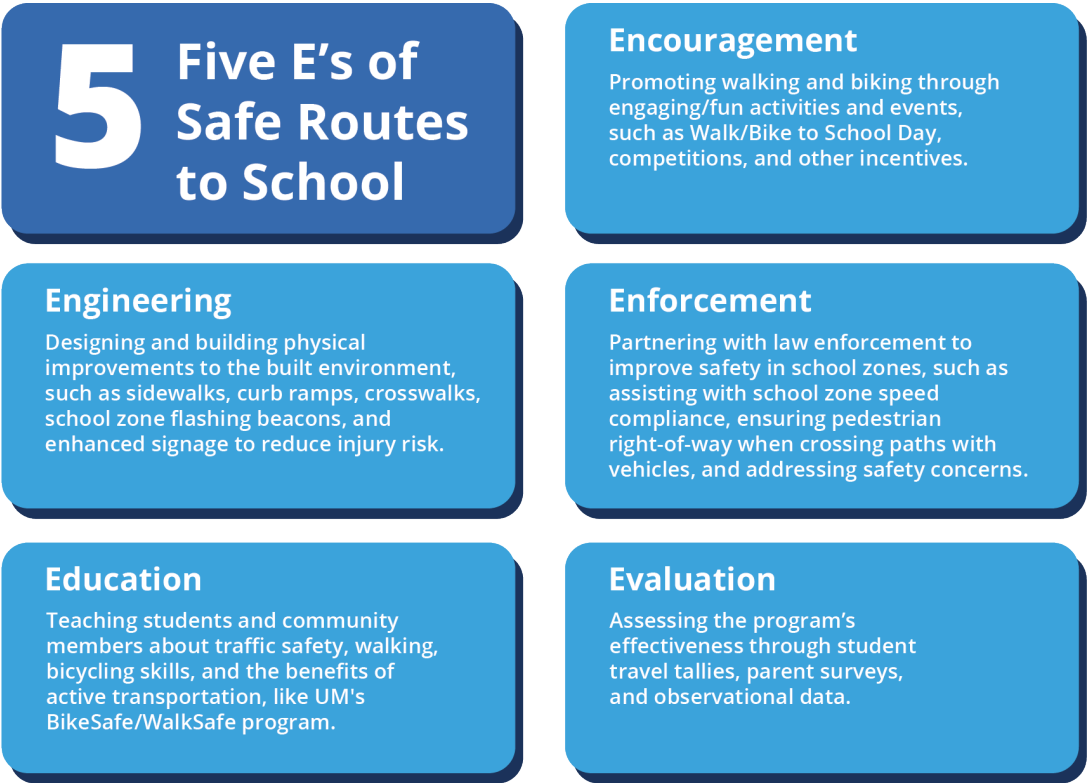


Figure 2: The Five E’s of Safe Routes to School

School Prioritization and Selection

A ranking matrix was developed by the TPO to target schools most in need of infrastructure improvements that enhance walkability and bikeability. The process is based on a National Center for SRTS methodology by the Institute of Transportation Engineers, while also applying information learned through previous SRTS implementation cycles in Miami-Dade County. The ranking system is based on the criteria presented in **Figure 3** to determine prioritization.

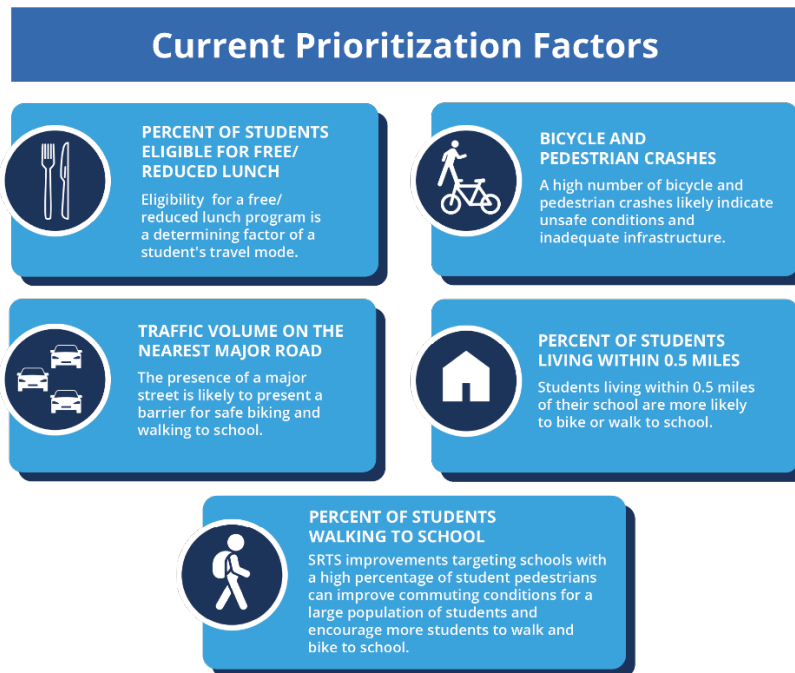


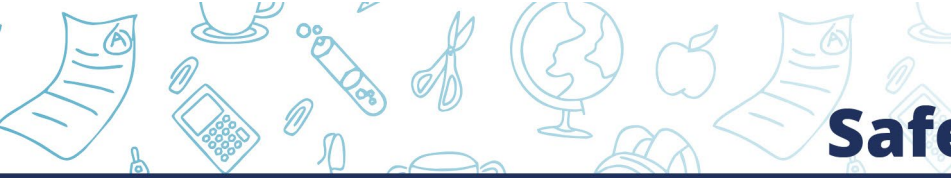
Figure 3: FY 2026 SRTS Prioritization Factors

The initial list of schools for the FY 2026 cycle was reviewed and narrowed down to eight (8) schools (one school for eight of nine (9) County school districts) over the course of two (2) Prioritization Meetings on August 26, 2025 and September 2, 2025. Note that schools located in District 5 were not included in the FY 2026 cycle as two (2) District 5 schools were chosen for the FY 2025 cycle. These selected schools were then reviewed by the Project Working Group (PWG), where the list of potential SRTS candidates was narrowed down to one (1) school during the School Selection Meeting on September 8, 2025. The two (2) schools selected for analysis and 2026 SRTS infrastructure recommendations are Mae M. Walters Elementary School and the adjacent Henry H. Filer Middle School. Note that these two (2) selected schools were combined into one application based on their proximity to one another.

Review and Analysis of Existing Conditions

Both schools are located in a mixed-use urban neighborhood with pedestrian and vehicle activity negatively impacted by local traffic conditions and existing infrastructure. Several infrastructure issues contribute to safety concerns in the area, including:

- Faded/missing crosswalk markings
- Lack of high-visibility crosswalks and curb ramps in critical locations
- Insufficient traffic/pedestrian signage and infrastructure
- Insufficient sidewalk conditions



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EXISTING CONDITIONS



Infrastructure Improvements and Opinions of Probable Costs

Improvements to the bike and pedestrian transportation network were developed for both schools based on parent/student surveys, field observations, traffic characteristics, collected data, and best practices. Infrastructure recommendations followed FDOT guidelines for eligible SRTS infrastructure improvements.

Mae M. Walters and Henry H. Filer Recommendations

Recommendations were developed at a total of 26 locations located within the shared 0.5-mile radius for both schools, as seen in **Figure 4**. Notable infrastructure improvement recommendations for Mae M. Walters Elementary School and Henry H. Filer Middle School included:

1. Installing new crosswalks or improve existing crossings
2. Installing new sidewalk extensions at intersections
3. Upgrading signage withing school speed zone
4. Upgrading substandard Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) facilities and install detectable warning mats
5. Installing school zone flashing beacons



Cost estimates were developed for each recommended infrastructure improvement. Included in the cost estimate is the cost of materials and labor, mobilization, maintenance of traffic, design, environmental/NEPA, construction engineering inspection and an inflation factor, as SRTS improvements typically require an approximately 5-year buildout timeframe. A summary of the approximate estimated costs is provided below in **Table 1**.

Estimated Cost of Infrastructure Recommendations		\$ 340,961
Subcategory	Subtotal Percentage	Subtotal Cost
Survey	5%	\$17,048.05
MOT	10%	\$34,096.10
Contingency	20%	\$68,192.20
Utility Impacts/Relocation	10%	\$34,096.10
Mobilization	10%	\$34,096.10
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST		\$528,489.55
Professional Engineering and Design	20%	\$105,697.91
Environmental/Permitting	5%	\$26,424.48
Construction Engineering and Inspection Cost	18%	\$95,128.12
NEPA/Public Involvement		\$100,000
SRTS Funding Request (Present Day)		\$855,740.06
GRAND TOTAL SRTS FUNDING REQUEST (APPLIED 3.16% 5-YEAR INFLATION FACTOR)		\$999,766.39
SCHOOL		PROBABLE COSTS
Mae M. Walters Elementary School/Henry H. Filer Middle School		\$ 999,766

Table 1: Opinion of Probable Costs



Public Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

During the SRTS planning process, public outreach and stakeholder coordination efforts were conducted in order to refine improvement development and incorporate community input. These efforts included PWG meetings and interagency presentations, as well as a public meeting to share findings and gather feedback.

Project Working Group Meetings

- PWG Meeting No. 1 (School Selection Meeting) - September 8, 2025
- PWG Meeting No. 2 – December 3, 2025

Field Visits

- Site Visit #1 (Virtual) – October 6, 2025
- Site Visit #2 (In-Person) – October 16, 2025
- Site Visit #3 – (In-Person) – November 5, 2025

Interagency Presentations

- BPAC (Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee)
 - Meeting No. 1 – November 4, 2025
 - Meeting No. 2 – April 7, 2026
- CTST (Community Traffic Safety Team)
 - Meeting No. 1 – November 13, 2025
 - Meeting No. 2 – April 9, 2026
- TPC (Transportation Planning Council) – April 13, 2026





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Public Meeting

A Public Meeting was held on December 15, 2025 at the James S. Walker Community Center in Hialeah to present proposed SRTS improvements, gather public feedback, and respond to community questions. Meeting materials included school-specific maps, recommendations, and survey tools to capture stakeholder input, ensuring the SRTS plan was developed with transparency, collaboration, and broad community support.

FY 2026 Safe Routes to School PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: December 15, 2025
TIME: 6:00PM - 8:00PM
LOCATION: James S. Walker Community Center
800 W 29th Street Hialeah, FL 33012



The Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is hosting an in-person Public Meeting to present recommended improvements part of the FY 2026 Safe Routes to School applications for the following selected schools:

- ✓ Mae M. Walters Elementary School
- ✓ Henry H. Filer Middle School

Help us secure State funding for Safer Routes to School in your area! We are competing for state funding to make accessibility improvements for your schools.

The Safe Routes to School program seeks to encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school and promote a healthy/active lifestyle.



TITLE VI & ADA: The Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) complies with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which states: No person in the United States shall, on grounds of race, color, or national origin, sex, age, disability, family, or religious status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. It is also the policy of Miami-Dade TPO to comply with all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).