

NEWS

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER PERLA TABARES HANTMAN ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S GOVERNING BOARD

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New Release from Perla Tabares Hantman

School Board Member Perla Tabares Hantman was elected Vice Chair of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Governing Board on January 29, 2009, after receiving the unanimous support of the Governing Board's members. This represents the first time that this position of leadership in the MPO has been held by someone other than a county commissioner.

"I am thrilled and humbled with this opportunity to help lead the MPO," said Ms. Hantman, who has served on the MPO since 1999, when she was appointed by Florida's governor. "This is a tremendous responsibility that I look forward to fulfilling with integrity, honor and commitment."

During her concurrent service to the MPO and the Miami-Dade County School Board, Ms. Hantman has championed safety causes, including the *Safe Routes to School Program* and *Walk Our Children to School Day*, which teach children safe walking skills and outline safe routes to school for students and parents. Ms. Hantman also has advocated for *Teen Driver Safety Week*, which encourages changes in unsafe driving behaviors at the high school age level to help save lives, and for the development of guidelines to coordinate the installation of traffic control safety devices for new educational facilities.

Ms. Hantman has served on the School Board since 1996, representing District 4. In 1999, she was nominated and unanimously elected Chair of School Board, becoming the first Hispanic woman to serve in that position. In 2000 and 2001 she was re-elected and served second and third consecutive terms as the Board's Chair. Ms. Hantman has also served as the School Board's Vice Chair. She was a member of the Florida Board of Regents, the governing board of Florida's 10 state universities, from 1990-1996.
