



RESOLUTION OF THE CITIES ASSOCIATION OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, SUPPORTING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County that

WHEREAS, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County supports policies and programs that focus on health and wellness and healthier community environments; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of children is of highest concern to the citizens of Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, 44% of middle and high school students in Santa Clara County do not engage in daily physical activity; and

WHEREAS, only about 25% of Santa Clara County fifth graders and 33% of seventh graders in Santa Clara County meet all California fitness standards; and

WHEREAS, a lack of physical activity plays a leading role in the rising rates of obesity, diabetes, and other health problems among children (and adults); and

WHEREAS, the childhood obesity epidemic is a national health crisis with one in every three children overweight and obese; and

WHEREAS, over half of adults and a quarter of middle and high school students in Santa Clara County are overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, the economic costs associated with obesity, overweight, and physical inactivity in California are estimated at \$41.2 billion and in Santa Clara County at over \$2 billion dollars;

WHEREAS, the San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara metropolitan area ranks 4th nationally in percentage of pedestrian traffic deaths; and

WHEREAS, from 1969 to 2007, the percentage of children nationally who walked or bicycled to school decreased from 48% to 13%; and

WHEREAS, driving students to school in private vehicles contributes to traffic congestion, safety concerns, and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, being able to walk or bicycle to school along safe routes offers an opportunity to build healthful physical activity into daily routines, so that children can arrive at school ready to learn; and

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to school; and

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School programs require the formation of multidisciplinary teams in each community to increase awareness of and support schools and students; and

WHEREAS, having safer routes to and from schools can decrease pedestrian and bicycling related injuries, not just for students, but for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School initiatives can strengthen a positive connection between schools and neighborhoods by creating beneficial interactions between children and adults; and

WHEREAS, some cities and school districts in Santa Clara County have already created Safe Routes To School initiatives that help to remove barriers to walking and bicycling to school through improvement of infrastructure and facilities and the creation of education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation programs; and

WHEREAS, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County has partnered with First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let Move* Campaign and the Santa Clara County Communities Putting Prevention to Work Obesity Prevention Initiative; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County encourages cities to prioritize the safety and comfort of school children in street modification projects that affect school travel routes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County encourages cities to partner with local school districts to apply for Safe Routes to School funding, prioritizing underserved schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County encourages cities to partner with local school district/s to do a simple, low-cost assessment of travel mode share to schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County encourages cities to participate in International Walk to School and/or International Bike to School Day, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County encourages all 15 Santa Clara County cities to participate in Safe Routes to School initiatives in order to gain the benefits mentioned above and strengthen the quality of life for Santa Clara County students, and be it finally

RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County on March 8, 2012, that the Association encourages all of the 15 Santa Clara County cities to pass Safe Routes to School resolutions in their communities as a show of commitment to increasing pedestrian activity, bicycling, and transit use among school aged children and their families.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED: March 8, 2012

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Baker, Carpenter, Garner, Griffith, Larsen, Liccardo, Page, Pirzynski, Scharff, Siegel, Siebert, Sinks, Tucker

NOES:

ABSENT: Esteves, Matthews

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sam Luais".

President
Cities Association of Santa Clara County
March 8, 2012