

# *Proclamation*

## WALK AND BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

WHEREAS: Children's lives are safer when communities prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety; and

WHEREAS: A lack of physical activity can play a role in health problems among children, and being able to walk or bike to school offers an opportunity to build physical activity into daily routines; and

WHEREAS: Increasing the number of children safely walking and biking to school can reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and reduce asthma attacks; and

WHEREAS: Safe Routes to School interventions have been shown to reduce the rate of pedestrian injury by 44 percent; and

WHEREAS: Not every parent or caregiver can drive their student to school, and busing shortages have schools reimagining their transportation plans; and

WHEREAS: Safe Routes to School programs may help encourage more parents and children to consider walking or biking to school instead of using a bus or a car; and

WHEREAS: Active kids learn better, and Safe Routes to School programs help students better focus in the classroom; and

WHEREAS: Studies have shown that after 20 minutes of physical activity, students tested better in reading, spelling, and math, and were more likely to read above their grade level; and

WHEREAS: More than 500 schools across Minnesota have been awarded funding through MnDOT planning, infrastructure, or non-infrastructure grants to implement Safe Routes to School programs; and

WHEREAS: Walk and Bike to School Days are special events to make walking and biking more visible, fun, and rewarding for children; encourage parents and students to make walking and biking to school a habit; and allow decision-makers to witness the value of walkable and bikeable communities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dale Christy, Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 WALK AND BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto subscribed my name and the seal of the City of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, this 25th day of September, Two thousand twenty-three.

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Dale Christy, Mayor  
City of Grand Rapids