

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, ADOPTING A SAFE ROUTES TO  
SCHOOL POLICY.**

- § 1. WHEREAS, obesity is one of the most serious threats to American public health, putting people at risk for many of the leading causes of death in the United States; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, motor vehicle crashes are also a leading cause of death and injury to children; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, low-income and moderate-income areas, whether they are located in rural, urban, or suburban communities, are typically the least safe for pedestrians and bicyclists, especially for children walking and biking to school, due to long-standing infrastructure disparities and a higher concentration of streets with faster-moving and/or higher-volume traffic; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, between 1969 and 2009 the percentage of children walking and biking to school dramatically declined from 48% to 13%; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, an overall decrease in daily physical activity corresponds with a dramatic increase in childhood obesity that has resulted in a nationwide health epidemic; and
- § 6. WHEREAS, when students walk or bike to school they get more physical activity, reduce their risk of obesity and diabetes, and improve their overall health, and healthier children miss fewer days of school; and
- § 7. WHEREAS, when students exercise before school, they arrive focused and ready to learn, without taking time away from existing school-day activities or placing additional burdens on teachers; and
- § 8. WHEREAS, when more people walk and bicycle, neighborhood streets become safer and more welcoming for anyone who is not driving; and
- § 9. WHEREAS, 10% to 14% of morning rush-hour traffic is attributable to families driving their children to school, so children walking or riding bikes to school can reduce traffic congestion; and
- § 10. WHEREAS, encouraging people to walk, bicycle, and use public transit saves energy resources, reduces air pollution and related chronic diseases, and reduces emissions of global warming gases; and
- § 11. WHEREAS, a balanced transportation system where people can easily and safely walk and bicycle to everyday destinations like schools enhances neighborhood economic vitality; and
- § 12. WHEREAS, Norman had an estimated 24.8% of adults in 2021 report being physically inactive the past 30 days compared to 23.4% across similar cities; and

- § 13. WHEREAS, Norman had an estimated 247.2 cardiovascular disease deaths per 100,000 population in 2020 compared to an average of 211.5 cardiovascular disease deaths per 100,000 population in 2020 across similar cities; and
- § 14. WHEREAS, Norman had an estimated 33% of adults report a BMI  $\geq 30\text{kg/m}^2$  in 2021 compared to an average of 32.3% across similar cities; and
- § 15. WHEREAS, childhood obesity rates in Oklahoma (20.4%) rank 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA that the City of Norman will improve its commitment to safe routes to school by adopting the safe routes to school policy attached hereto as Exhibit A, and made part of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk