

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-017**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CUPERTINO  
SUPPORTING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL AND ALIGNED PARTNERSHIPS  
WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the City of Cupertino supports policies and programs that bolster the health and wellness of its residents and fostering healthier community environments;  
and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of children is of highest concern to the citizens of Cupertino and 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 teens (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, Santa Clara County metropolitan areas rank 4<sup>th</sup> nationally in percentage of pedestrian traffic deaths; and

WHEREAS, from 1969 to 2007, the percentage of children and teens 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 and teens 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 and teens 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, teens 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 (the "Five E's); now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that City of Cupertino will partner with its local schools to encourage all students to walk, bike, or carpool recognizing that walking and bicycling promotes student's physical activity and reduces vehicle traffic and air pollution in the vicinity of schools and that for students who do not live close enough to school, carpooling also reduces traffic and creates a safer environment for those who walk or bicycle, and be it further

RESOLVED, that City of Cupertino does hereby endorse the Safe Routes to School National Partnership Consensus Statement as a means to encourage the continued collaboration of its school districts and community partners in their efforts to reduce risk for students and encourage more families to use alternatives to driving to school more often; be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Cupertino supports and will collaborate with its school districts to convene, launch and host a community-based Task Force pilot working with Lincoln and Sedgwick Elementary Schools, Kennedy and Hyde Middle Schools, and Monta Vista and Cupertino High Schools to discuss and plan for measures to improve the safety of students and encourage walking and biking to school. To achieve this objective, the City will convene, organize, staff, and participate in the community-based Task Force and support school districts' efforts to identify a team member or liaison to attend the Task Force meetings and coordinate each school's onsite efforts including, but not limited to, identifying strategies to improve student safety along routes to school; developing and implementing bicycle and pedestrian safety education structured for the appropriate grade and age levels; collecting fall and spring student tally surveys to help evaluate alternative commute program progress; sharing Safe Routes information on both District and school websites including Suggested Routes to School maps; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, should this Task Force pilot program be effective, the City of Cupertino will support expansion to all schools within Cupertino, and be it further

RESOLVED, that City of Cupertino will partner with its school districts to prioritize the safety and comfort of school children in citywide street modification projects that affect school travel routes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that City of Cupertino will partner with school districts to apply for Safe Routes to School funding, and be it further

RESOLVED, that City of Cupertino will partner with the school districts to do a simple, low-cost assessment of travel mode share to all schools to be funded by the City; and be it further

RESOLVED, that City of Cupertino will encourage all schools to participate in International Walk to School and/or International Bike to School Day, hosted locally as "Walk One Week" (WOW), and support each school site's efforts to collect onsite data to record school site participants, and be it further

RESOLVED, that City of Cupertino will team with its school districts to participate in the Safe Routes to School initiative in order to gain the benefits mentioned above and strengthen the quality of life of Cupertino's students, families, and neighborhoods.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the City Council of the City of Cupertino this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, by the following vote:

Vote                    Members of the City Council

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grace Schmidt, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod Sinks, Mayor