

# **Resolution of Support for the Creation and Funding of a Minnesota Safe Routes to School Grant Program**

- Whereas,** Minnesota Department of Transportation received 82 Safe Routes to School grant requests in 2011 totaling \$23 million but were only able to fund 16 with the \$3.8 million in federal funds that were available; and
- Whereas,** about one-third of the children in the United States are obese or overweight; and
- Whereas,** the number of obese and overweight children has tripled in the last 20 years and is expected to increase at an even more rapid rate; and
- Whereas,** 43% of children that live less than a mile from school are driven to school; and
- Whereas,** walking one mile to and from school would equal 2/3 of the recommended daily physical activity, and
- Whereas,** many children do not get the recommended 30 minute minimum of moderate to vigorous physical activity most days; and
- Whereas,** \$14 billion is spent annually in United States on child obesity related health care; and
- Whereas,** studies have shown that physical activity has a positive effect on scholastic achievement, cognitive ability, reducing tobacco use, insomnia, depression, anxiety and body mass index; and
- Whereas,** epidemiologists have forecasted that today's American children may be the first generation to live shorter lives than their parents because of disease related to physical inactivity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that \_\_\_\_\_ encourages the Minnesota Legislature to pass and Governor Dayton to sign a bill that creates a Minnesota Safe Routes to School Program and funds it with an allocation of \$3 million in the 2012 Bonding Bill.**

RESOLUTION DECLARED AND ADOPTED.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_