# Example 1: Sample City Resolution

# RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

**WHEREAS,** [name of city] 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 the [name of city]; and

**WHEREAS,** walking and biking can help enhance the health and overall physical activity of children, improve air quality and the environment, and reduce traffic congestion and speed in and around school zones; and

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

**WHEREAS,** Safe Routes to School efforts help remove barriers to walking and biking to school through improvement of infrastructure and facilities and the creation of education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation programs; 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,** it is fitting that [name of city] recognizes the importance of making walking and biking to school a safe activity.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that [name of city] will participate in and support the Safe Routes to School initiative in order to gain the benefits mentioned above and strengthen the quality of life for [name of city] students, families, and neighborhoods.

# Example 2: Sample School Board Resolution

**[Name of district] Resolution supporting healthy communities through Safe Routes to School programs.**

**WHEREAS,** the health, safety, and future of children in [name of district] is of top concern and a priority in the Healthy Cities Campaign; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges the epidemic of growing obesity, over half of adults and a quarter of middle and high school students in the county are overweight or obese, and is committed to support policy, programs, and messaging around preventative measures; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges the childhood obesity epidemic is a national health crisis with one in every three children overweight and obese; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges the direct link between growing immobility, chronic physical diseases, and chronic mental conditions, currently 44% of middle and high school students in Santa Clara County do not engage in daily physical activity; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges 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,** [name of district] acknowledges the economic costs associated with chronic immobility in California are estimated at 41.2 billion annually, and over 2 billion in Santa Clara County; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges the direct correlation between physically active students and improved academic performance and attendance; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges the unsustainable traffic growth, safety, and air pollution due to rising individual driving trips to and from school, recent reports showing 18% of national city morning traffic is caused by single vehicle transport to school; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges that when students living within one mile of school walk or bike to and from school, they can achieve two thirds of the Surgeon General’s recommended sixty minutes of daily exercise; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges that the San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara metropolitan area ranks 4th nationally in percentage of pedestrian traffic deaths; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges a national decrease in the number of students walking and biking to school, decreasing from 48% in 1969 to 13% in 2007. The 35% difference is seen in single vehicle trips to school, busing numbers staying the same; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges Safe Routes to School is an international and nation program that has proven to improve safety for walking or bicycling to and from school, increase the number of students walking and biking to and from school, and better access for students walking or bicycling to and from school; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges creating more access to safe routes to and from school results in reduced bicycle and pedestrian related injuries and deaths for students and the entire community; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges Safe Routes to School initiatives can strengthen a positive connection between schools and neighborhoods by creating beneficial interactions between children and adults; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] acknowledges the importance of the Safe Routes to School program and its dedication to removing barriers to walking and bicycling to and from school through improvement of infrastructure and facilities and the creation of education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation programs; and

**WHEREAS,** [name of district] understands the path to healthy cities requires true collaboration with public health, transportation, and education systems;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** [name of district] will prioritize the safety, well-being, and transportation options of school children when approving new development projects and street modification projects, incorporating Safe Routes to School practices; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that [name of district] will participate with local school districts to apply for Safe Routes to School funding, prioritizing underserved schools; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that [name of district] will partner with local school district/s to do a simple, low-cost assessment of travel mode share to schools; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** [name of district] will lead by example, support, and participate in walk and bike to school day; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** [name of district] will continue to collaborate with public health, transportation, and education professionals to address the pressing challenges stated above, and invest in the future of students’ well-being; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** [name of district] will gain the benefits mentioned above and improve the quality of life and safety of students and all community members by supporting the following Safe Routes to School practices

* Encourage families, students, and school staff to be more physically active by walking and bicycling more often.
* Make streets, sidewalks, pathways, trails, and crosswalks safe, convenient, and attractive for walking and bicycling to school.
* Ensure that streets around schools have an adequate number of safe places to cross and that there is safe and convenient access into the school building from adjacent sidewalks.
* Keep driving speeds slow near schools, on school routes, and at school crossings.
* Enforce all traffic laws near schools, on school routes, and in other areas of high pedestrian and bicycle activity.
* Locate schools within walking and bicycling distance of as many students as possible.
* Reduce the amount of traffic around schools.
* Use trails, pathways, and non-motorized corridors as travel routes to schools.
* Provide secure bicycle parking at schools.
* Teach traffic safety skills routinely in school.