



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

1930 Ninth Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
PH: 406.4HEALTH or
406.443.2584
Fax: 406.457.8000

Resolution of Support for

Local, Statewide and Federal Initiatives that Promote Transportation and Land-use Policies and Practices that Promote Good Health.

WHEREAS, over the past two decades, the percentage of individuals who are obese has doubled, the percentage of children and youth who are overweight has nearly tripled to 32% and that physical inactivity contributes to this high prevalence of overweight; and

WHEREAS, obesity and inactivity lead to many other chronic diseases, as well as high blood pressure, heart disease, osteoarthritis, cancer, stroke, and diabetes and the cost of obesity and inactivity to society is enormous and growing; and

WHEREAS, transportation sector pollutants are associated with several health issues, including asthma and respiratory illness, heart disease, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, climate change is an important public health issue of the 21st century and transportation is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, with emissions from the transportation sector making up one third of carbon dioxide emissions; and

WHEREAS, traffic injuries and fatalities (from motor crashes as well as bike and pedestrian accidents) are also an enormous public health problem being the leading cause of death for people ages 5 to 34 in the United States and the leading cause of injury-related death among all ages; and

WHEREAS, nearly one third of Americans are transportation disadvantaged in that they cannot easily access basic needs such as healthy food choices, medical care, gainful employment, and educational opportunities; and

Whereas, our senior population is the fastest growing demographic in the county, projected to increase by 227.7% by 2030, and as this generation ages, an increasing proportion of the population—because of where they live and the lack of transportation alternatives—risks becoming isolated, immobile and unable to access health care; and

WHEREAS, the built environment—defined as the human-made features of our communities such as buildings, public resources (libraries, clinics, and schools), land-use patterns and the transportation system—has been proven to have a direct impact on human health; and physical factors, and social factors; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health is directly responsible for protecting the health and safety of all who live, work and visit here; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health believes that the health benefits of land use planning and building more walkable, bikeable and transit friendly communities that promote health should be a concern for all levels of government – local, state and federal.

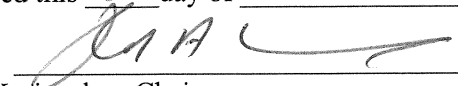
“To Improve and Protect the Health of all Lewis and Clark County Residents.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

By the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health, that we will work to ensure that the public health impacts of local transportation and land-use projects are properly assessed and that we will support local, statewide and federal transportation legislation that promotes better land use planning and more walkable, bikeable and transit friendly communities.

Approved this 25 day of June, 2009.

Signed



David Kramacker, Chair

Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health