

## IMPROVED INFRASTRUTURE AROUND SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS, Parents cite safety issues and traffic concerns as the number one reason for not allowing their children to walk or bike to school; this concern is substantiated by the fact that between 2008 and 2009 Missouri experienced a rise in pedestrian fatalities and in 2009 one pedestrian was killed or injured every 6.7 hours, and improvements in traffic control and infrastructure design could greatly reduce such risks to pedestrians and bicyclist; and,
- WHEREAS, Health experts and health programs recommend walking and bicycling to school as an effective strategy to fight childhood obesity; and,
- WHEREAS, School districts faced with a 10% increased cost in fuel since the beginning of 2010, and restricted scope in reimbursement funds from the state no longer offer transportation for students living less than a mile from school, and due to recent budget deficits some schools have eliminated bus transportation; and,
- WHEREAS, Several infrastructure programs and grants exist that are designed to improve local neighborhoods and parks; in addition, most local governments already include capital funding in their budgets for infrastructure improvement; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers (Missouri PTA), their units and councils, work directly with school administrations and local officials to bring attention to unsafe walking and biking routes to schools; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That Missouri PTA, their units and councils, encourage local governments to seek out and apply for state and federal infrastructure grants; utilizing funds to build and improve infrastructure, including but not limited to sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, crossing signals, traffic signals and street lighting.