



## Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

POB 1505, 401 E. Water Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902 [www.tjpd.org](http://www.tjpd.org)  
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### RESOLUTION

#### **SUPPORTING CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE'S SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET ASIDE GRANT APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, obesity is one of the most serious threats to American public health, ranking third among preventable causes of death in the United States;

**WHEREAS**, motor vehicle crashes are also a leading cause of death and injury to children;

**WHEREAS**, between 1969 and 2009 the percentage of children walking and biking to school dramatically declined from 48 percent to 13 percent;

**WHEREAS**, the Safe Routes to School program, created by Congress in 2005, aimed to increase the number of children engaged in active transportation when traveling to school by funding (1) infrastructure projects, located within two miles of a public school, that directly increase safety and convenience for public school children walking and/or biking to school, and (2) non-infrastructure projects designed to encourage public school children to walk and bicycle to school;

**WHEREAS**, Safe Routes to School projects are a proven, effective approach to increasing the number of children actively traveling to school by foot or bike;

**WHEREAS**, Safe Routes to School projects and programs provide important health, safety, and environmental benefits for children, including reducing risk of obesity/chronic disease and pedestrian/bicycle injuries as well as improving air quality;

**WHEREAS**, the need for Safe Routes to School projects and programs is especially strong in low-income areas, which suffer from a disproportionately high incidence of both childhood obesity/chronic disease and pedestrian and bicycle injuries and often have inferior pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure;

**WHEREAS**, Safe Routes to School projects make it safer and more convenient for all residents to walk and bike to destinations, further promoting public health;

**WHEREAS**, a goal of the City of Charlottesville's current Comprehensive Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, Complete Streets Resolution and Healthy Eating Active Living Resolution supports active transportation options, which can be met in part by implementation of Safe Routes to School projects and programs;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO fully supports and endorses the Safe Routes to School Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Grant application from the City of Charlottesville.



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Christine Jacobs, Interim Executive Director

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Michael Payne, MPO Policy Board Chair

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Date

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