

NO. 2015-540

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM; PROVIDING THAT IT IS THE CITY'S INTENT THAT ALL APPROPRIATE SOURCES OF FUNDING, INCLUDING CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL SOURCES ARE DRAWN UPON TO IMPLEMENT THE COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM; INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Vision Statement directly supports the principle that mobility afforded to the individual is basic to the success of the City's land use and transportation system; and

WHEREAS, through implementation of the City's Complete Streets Program, streets are designed and operated to promote safety and accessibility for all users of the transportation network, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, commercial and emergency vehicles, and people of all ages and physical and economic abilities; and

WHEREAS, the City has stated its desire for inclusion of a Complete Streets philosophy within the Transportation Mission Statement in the Vision Element of the Comprehensive Plan which states, "St. Petersburg will have a livable balance of connected transportation options for all of its citizens. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities shall be designed, encouraged and celebrated as indicators of a healthy city. Public transit shall be sensitive to the context of neighborhoods and integrated into future economic and development plans"; and

WHEREAS, the City has, through the implementation of the CityTrails Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan, made significant progress toward development of a pedestrian and bicycle network throughout St. Petersburg that has helped to create a more balanced transportation system that enhances mobility; and

WHEREAS, the City updated its Land Development Regulations to recognize the importance of providing context-sensitive land use planning that supports the desire of the City to improve the balance in the community's mobility as well as to help create unique and long-lasting places; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the potential benefits to the local economy and positive transformations that may occur with investments made in implementing Complete Streets; and

WHEREAS, the City has a significant interest in maintaining a sustainable transportation system, and increasing the opportunity for bicycle and pedestrian travel as an alternative to the automobile which reduces the City's reliance on fossil fuels which places the City of St. Petersburg in a position to more effectively reduce greenhouse emissions and improve air quality; and

WHEREAS, St. Petersburg desires to be a city of opportunity whereby the health and wellness of its citizens is considered vital to the overall shared success of the City and a transportation network that considers the needs of all users will be a key component toward providing access to healthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to complement the efforts by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) that adopted a Complete Streets Policy in September 2014 which states in part that the "Department will routinely plan, design, construct, reconstruct and operate a context-sensitive system of 'Complete Streets'. While maintaining safety and mobility, Complete Streets shall serve the transportation needs of transportation system users of all ages and abilities"; and

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County Transportation Plan includes an endorsement of Complete Streets elements that are similar to those in the FDOT Complete Streets Policy by establishing goals that call for the provision of a balanced and integrated multi-modal transportation system for local and regional travel that enhances quality of life and promotes sustainability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg that this Council hereby affirms its support of the Complete Streets Program, including City of St. Petersburg Administrative Policy #020400 regarding the Complete Streets Program, which calls for the City of St. Petersburg to continue the development of its transportation system with the intent to create a comprehensive, integrated, and connected network where Complete Streets are designed and operated to promote safety and accessibility for all users of our roads, trails, and transit systems, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, and operators of commercial and emergency vehicles, and people of all ages and physical and economic abilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is this City Council's intent that all appropriate sources of funding, including City, County, State and Federal sources, are drawn upon to implement the Complete Streets Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is instructed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Secretary of Transportation, the State of Florida Department of Transportation Secretary, members of the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation, and the Executive Director of the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization and Pinellas Planning Council.

