

## RESOLUTION 2020-01

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE WALES, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE POLK VISION INFRASTRUCTURE TEAM'S EFFORTS IN CLOSING THE SIDEWALK GAPS ACROSS POLK COUNTY WITH EMPHASIS ON GAPS WITHIN ONE MILE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN POLK COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, Polk Vision and the Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) have a shared goal of reducing pedestrian injuries and fatalities; and

**WHEREAS**, sidewalks are an important component of the collaborative Polk Vision's strategies and the Polk county TPO to encourage a multi-modal transportation system, establish pedestrian connections between developed areas, schools and parks, and provide a healthy and safe environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Polk county's major road network of arterial and collector roadways include State, County and City roads and is one of the largest in the State of Florida consisting of over 1,000 miles of roads traversing all of Polk County's jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019 Smart Growth America released a report entitled, *Dangerous By Design*, listing the Lakeland-Winter Haven Metropolitan Area (which includes most of Polk County) as the fifth worst in the United States in terms of pedestrian safety; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 60 percent of the major roads in Polk County currently do not have sidewalks on at least one side of the road; and

**WHEREAS**, on a typical school day, thousands of school children throughout the County are walking along portions of these major roads in order to get to and from school or a bus stop and many of these roads lack sidewalks; and

**WHEREAS**, Polk Vision's Infrastructure Team in partnership with the Polk TPO have evaluated 1140 public schools in Polk County and identified 133 miles of major road (collector and arterial) within one mile of a school that do not have sidewalks; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of this evaluation, the top schools with the least amount of sidewalk coverage have been identified and a list of sidewalk needs for these schools has been developed; and

**WHEREAS**, Polk Vision is seeking to engage the county and cities of Polk County to make them aware of these efforts in order to improve pedestrian safety on Polk county's roads and in particular within one mile of public schools, and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Polk County Board of County Commissioners (County) and local municipalities, have limited funding to address the substantial costs of retrofiting roads with sidewalks; and

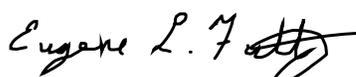
**WHEREAS**, the continued development of residential and commercial areas without adequate sidewalks will only contribute to this growing problem; and

**WHEREAS**, sidewalks constructed in conjunction with new development will serve current and future travel needs and provide the opportunity to form an adequate sidewalk network.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City of Lake Wales at its regular meeting convened on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020:

1. The City of Lake Wales supports Polk vision, the Polk vision Infrastructure Team, the Polk TPO, and other partners in reducing Polk County's pedestrian injuries and fatalities and closing the sidewalk gaps within one mile of public schools.
2. The City of Lake Wales recognizes the importance of funding sidewalk improvement projects on the major roadway network, especially those identified by the Infrastructure Team within one mile of a public school in Lake Wales.
3. The city of Lake Wales will endeavor to include sidewalk requirements in conjunction with new development or redevelopment consistent with their land development regulations.

**THIS RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND PASSED** by the City Commission of the City of Lake Wales, Florida, at its regular meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Signed: 

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Mayor/Commissioner, City of Lake Wales

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk