

**SAFE STREETS FOR ALL POLK COUNTY SUPPORT  
RESOLUTION 2022-28**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE WALES, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO SECURE AWARD OF A SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANT (SS4A)

WHEREAS, over the last 10 years all Polk County Stakeholders and Partners have taken several planning, outreach/education, and implementation actions in support of safety initiatives; and,

WHEREAS, the planning actions have included the adoption of a Complete Streets Policy in 2012, action plans for eight (8) of the most unsafe corridors in the County in 2015, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action Plans in 2015 and 2020, and the evaluation of sidewalk needs near public schools in 2017; and,

WHEREAS, the outreach/education actions have included a Pledge to Slow Down campaign to bring awareness to the dangers of speeding and, as part of this campaign, developed several short safety videos demonstrating the effects of speeding and kicked-off the Pedestrian Bicycle Student Education Program to supplement and greater facilitate the curricula for grades K-8; and,

WHEREAS, the implementation has included the pursuit and award of Safe Routes to School grants which resulted in the installation of sidewalk in areas of critical need near schools and, in partnership with Polk Vision, the formation of a bicycle/pedestrian team and accompanying tactical plans to support pedestrian and cyclist safety; and,

WHEREAS, in the past five years, ending in 2020, an average of 126 lives were cut short and 462 people were severely incapacitated while traveling on Polk roadways; and,

WHEREAS, the 2016-2020 annual average roadway deaths increased by 27 percent over that of the 2011-2015, while the population grew by 12.6 percent and now Polk County is currently the fastest growing county in Florida and the seventh fastest growing county in the nation; and,

WHEREAS, for multiple years running, until the methodology changed in 2021, the Lakeland/Winter Haven metro area was identified by Smart Growth America as the among the 10 most dangerous places in the nation to walk - now 21<sup>st</sup> in 2021; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to the emotional trauma, the families forever altered, and the community disruption; these severe crash outcomes on Polk County roadways cost the economy an average of over \$1.75 billion a year in

direct and indirect costs, according to the Florida Department of Transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the Polk Communities and Partners, finding deaths and severe injuries on our roadways clearly unacceptable, has adopted a target of zero fatalities and incapacitating injuries; and,

WHEREAS, the Polk communities and Partners are coming together around Vision Zero and the Polk TPO has begun developing an initial Vision Zero Plan with the funding currently available to it; and,

WHEREAS, the initial Vision Zero Plan will provide a consolidated crash database, identify important county-wide conditions and trends, identify roadway fatal and incapacitating injury hot spots, and develop an initial set of 'low-hanging fruit' projects within a 10-year planning horizon; and,

WHEREAS, the initial Vision Zero Plan does continue to move the TPO forward in addressing the goal of Zero; it does not provide all the elements required to apply for Safe Streets for All Implementation [e.g., capital project] grants in future years; and,

WHEREAS, although a modicum of additional funding would result in a Vision Zero Plan that meets the minimum required elements to apply for Safe Streets for All Implementation grants; it would not likely result in winning Safe Streets for All Implementation grant projects; and,

WHEREAS, Polk County desires to be awarded a portion of the \$5 Billion in Safe Streets for All funding allocated for winning implementation projects to achieve zero fatalities, it will pursue Safe Streets for All Action Plan funding in the 2022-2023 year to develop a robust Vision Zero plan and on-going program with highly competitive safety projects that can be completed within the five-year SS4A performance period; and,

WHEREAS, to provide the missing required Vision Zero elements necessary to apply for an SS4A Implementation Grant and produce a robust Vision Zero Plan with highly competitive, quickly implementable projects; the 2022-2023 Action Plan funding will be used to, among other tasks:

1. investigate severe crash and pedestrian/cyclist involved hot spots identified by the initial Vision Zero Plan in a more granular way to better determine causes for the severe crashes and pedestrian/cyclist involved crashes;

2. set up for the implementation of proven strategies to eliminate existing severe crash hot spots and prevent the creation of future crash hot spots in a cost-effective and lasting way;

3. fully engage and incorporate the feedback of the local communities

and, where reasonable, the travelers within the existing and likely future crash hotspots;

4. assess the impacts of the recommended strategies for disadvantaged populations as required in the SS4A Implementation grant submittal and, if desirable, the environmental impacts as required to implement the strategies;

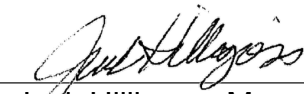
5. provide needed technical and material assistance in building upon and completing the existing Polk Vision Pedestrian and Bike Team Tactical Plan which will pilot projects in partnering communities and complete a web-based book of Polk safety practices; and,

6. build upon and further the process of eliminating the previously identified school area sidewalk gaps and further the process of preparing the already identified unsafe corridors for safety improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Lake Wales hereby supports efforts to secure award of a Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant.

**THIS RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND PASSED** by the City Commission of the City of Lake Wales at its regular meeting on September 7, 2022.

**CITY OF LAKE WALES, FLORIDA**

  
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Jack Hilligoss, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk