RESOLUTION NUMBER 7473

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL PROVIDING FOR A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY AND DIRECTING STAFF TO DEVELOP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES TO INCREASE THE USABILITY OF ALL STREETS FOR ALL MODES OF TRAVEL FOR CITIZENS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES IN MISSOULA.

WHEREAS, The City of Missoula wishes to ensure that all users of our transportation system are able to travel safely and conveniently on all streets and roadways within the public right-of-way in Missoula; and

WHEREAS, a complete street is defined as one which provides a safe, convenient, and context-sensitive facility for all modes of travel, for users of all ages and all abilities; and

WHEREAS, complete streets better serve the needs of those who use transit by providing access to transit systems; and

WHEREAS, complete streets have public health benefits, such as encouraging physical activity and improving air quality, by providing the opportunity for more people to bike and walk safely; and

WHEREAS, complete streets improve access and safety for those who cannot or choose not to drive motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, complete streets are essential in providing safe routes to school for children; and

WHEREAS, complete streets policies have been adopted legislatively by at least five states, and by at least 36 localities – of which 13 are by local law (resolutions or ordinances); and

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula currently has a limited complete streets policy applying particularly to streets developed in new subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula Public Works Department has a Master Sidewalk Plan and other programs to improve the ability of Missoula's streets to meet the travel needs of all users; and

WHEREAS, the concept and principles of complete streets are entirely compatible with the direction and plans embodied in the 2008 Missoula Urban Area Transportation Plan update; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Missoula to formalize a commitment to the principles of complete streets for all of our streets;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA, that the City of Missoula commits to a Complete Streets Policy which has the following elements:

1. Any roadway in the city of Missoula which is to be newly constructed or completely reconstructed must be designed and constructed to
    A. provide for the safety and convenience of all users of all ages and of all abilities: pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motorists; and
    B. address the needs of all users both along roadway corridors and crossing the corridors.

2. Any project in which an existing roadway surface is to be restored or rehabilitated, and any remediation of deficient or non-existent sidewalks, shall be reviewed for the potential of making the roadway a complete street. Consideration shall particularly include proportionality: is the scope of work needed to make a complete street reasonable in relation to the scope of the proposed roadway maintenance or improvement?

3. Any exception to applying this Complete Streets Policy to a specific roadway project must be approved by the City Council, with documentation of the reason for the exception.

4. An annual report will be made to the City Council by the City Administration showing progress made in implementing this policy.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE SAID CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA, that this Complete Streets Policy will apply to the scoping, design, and construction of projects.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE SAID CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA, that the Public Works Department will review current design standards, including the design standards embodied in the most recent version of the subdivision regulations (currently Article 3-2 and 3-3) which apply to new roadway construction, to assure that they reflect the best available design standards and guidelines, and effectively implement the Complete Streets Policy above stated.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE SAID CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA, that these design standards also serve as guidance for all existing roadway rehabilitation, reconstruction, or resurfacing, to the extent that the work required is reasonably proportional to the scale of the proposed rehabilitation, reconstruction, or resurfacing.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE SAID CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA, that application of design standards will be flexible to permit context-sensitive design, fitting the roadway design within the context of the neighborhood, recognizing that all streets are different and user needs will be balanced.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE SAID CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA, that exceptions may be made when

- The project involves a roadway on which non-motorized use is prohibited by law. In this case, an effort shall be made to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists elsewhere.
- There is documentation that there is an absence of use by all except motorized users now and would be in the future even if the street were a complete street.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE SAID CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA, that staff in the Public Works Department be directed to develop ordinances, resolutions, programs, and recommendations for funding to implement the Complete Streets Policy, for consideration by the City Council; and that these shall identify the complete streets needs and recommend a plan to meet those needs, including for sidewalks, throughout the city.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE SAID CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA, that the City Council commits to including Complete Streets Policy and principles in all future City plans.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of August, 2009.

ATTEST:

/s/ Martha L. Rehbein
Martha L. Rehbein,
City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED:

/s/ John Engen
John Engen,
Mayor