IN THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

A RESOLUTION authorizing the adoption of the "Complete Street" policy for use by the Public Works, Health, and Parks and Recreation Departments for the development of roads within unincorporated Jackson County.

RESOLUTION #17963, August 27, 2012

INTRODUCED BY  Bob Spence, County Legislator

WHEREAS, the "Complete Street" concept is a coordinated effort between Jackson County Departments of Public Works, Health, and Parks and Recreation to design and build streets that balance safety, convenience, and cost for everyone using the road, including drivers of agricultural, emergency, freight vehicles, as well as pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation vehicles; and,  

WHEREAS, adoption of the Complete Streets concept for use in the planning, design, and implementation processes for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance, alteration, or repair of streets and other portions of the transportation network will help to reduce obesity while meeting a need for alternative transportation modes in the unincorporated areas of Jackson County; and, 

WHEREAS, the Complete Street concept does not prescribe a singular design, but advocates for a design that meets the unique needs of each community; and, 

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Complete Street policy will allow the Public Works Department to apply for grant funds to assist in the implementation of the plan; and,
WHEREAS, the adoption of the Complete Street policy is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Jackson County; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the County Legislature of Jackson County, Missouri, that the Legislature supports the adoption of the Complete Street policy for use in the construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of streets in unincorporated Jackson County.
Effective Date: This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage by a majority of the Legislature.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Chief Deputy County Counselor

Chief Deputy County Counselor

Certificate of Passage

I hereby certify that the attached resolution, Resolution #17963 of August 27, 2012, was duly passed on August 27, 2012 by the Jackson County Legislature. The votes thereon were as follows:

Yeas 9

Nays 0

Abstaining 0

Absent 0

Date 8/27/12

Mary Jo Spino, Clerk of Legislature
A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF JACKSON COUNTY,
CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF A POLICY IN SUPPORT OF THE CONCEPT
OF "COMPLETE STREETS" FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF JACKSON
COUNTY, MISSOURI.

WHEREAS, the KC Healthy Kids is a nonprofit organization dedicated to
reducing obesity and improving the health of children in the greater Kansas City area;

AND WHEREAS, there is a growing recognition that streets designated solely for
motor vehicles may be a contributing factor to the national obesity epidemic that is
affecting the well being of the citizens in this country, as single purpose streets have been
found to limit the opportunity for children and adults to get regular physical activity
during their daily routines;

AND WHEREAS, among its initiatives, KC Healthy Kids is actively encouraging
communities and organizations throughout the metropolitan area to support the concept
of "Complete Streets" within each jurisdictional area;

AND WHEREAS, the concept of "Complete Streets" is to design and build streets
that balance the safety and convenience of vehicular traffic with the needs of others, such
as pedestrians, bicyclists and people of all ages and abilities;

AND WHEREAS, the Complete Streets concept does not prescribe a singular
design for all streets, instead each street is considered to be unique and expected to
respond to the needs of the community within the context of its link within the overall
street system;

AND WHEREAS, the KC Healthy Kids organization has therefore requested, and
worked with the Jackson County Health Department; the Jackson County Departments of
Public Works and Parks and Recreation; to prepare a policy in support of the concept of
Complete Streets for the unincorporated area of Jackson County, Missouri;

AND WHEREAS, attached hereto is a copy of the policy, as recommended by the
Jackson County Public Works and the Jackson County Planning Commission, indicating
the County Legislature's support of the Complete Streets concept, and which shall be
interpreted not as a requirement, but rather as a declaration of support and encouragement
for the county's transportation planners and engineers to routinely consider designing,
building and maintaining the county's right-of-way to enable safe access for all users,
regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation;

IT IS, THEREFORE, HEREBY RESOLVED by the County Legislature Jackson County,
Missouri, that the policy attached hereto as Exhibit A, is and shall be considered.
Exhibit A

COMPLETE STREET POLICY FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

WHEREAS, there is growing recognition that streets designed solely for motor
vehicles may be a contributing factor to the obesity epidemic that is occurring in Jackson
County and the Kansas City Metropolitan, area as well as throughout the United States.
Single-purpose streets have been found to limit the opportunity for children and adults to
gain regular physical activity during their daily routines.

WHEREAS, the goal of Complete Streets is to design and build streets that
balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road, not only for motorist,
including drivers of agricultural, emergency, and freight vehicles, but also for
pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation, and for people of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS the Complete Street concept does not prescribe a singular design for
streets as each street is considered to be unique and needs to respond to its community
context; and

WHEREAS, while urban Complete Streets will include a wide range of pedestrian
facilities (e.g., sidewalks, pedestrian crossing), bike lanes, and bus stops, Complete
Streets in the unincorporated area will likely be different serving the unique needs of
rural residents, visitors, and businesses; and

WHEREAS: the Jackson County Public Works Department has and continues to
promote development that can be adapted to meet the growing need for alternative
transportation modes in the unincorporated area; and

WHEREAS: the Jackson County Public Works Department has and continues to
promote development that can be adapted to meet the growing need for alternative
transportation modes in the unincorporated area; and

WHEREAS: the Jackson County Health Department has actively supported and
engaged in numerous efforts to improve the health of all Jackson County citizens, and has
particularly undertaken programs to address the problem of child and adult obesity; and

WHEREAS: the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department has built and
manages over 200 miles of paved pedestrian and bicycle paths and has acquired property
and made plans to build future pedestrian and bicycle paths in the unincorporated area;
and need and feasibility of providing future transit service to certain locations within the
unincorporated area; and
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Complete Streets are defined as streets designed and built that balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road, not only for motorist, including drivers of agricultural, emergency, and freight vehicles, but also for pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation, and for people of all ages and abilities; and that the Jackson County Departments of Public Works; Health; and Parks and Recreation; will make consideration of Complete Streets practices a routine part of everyday operations, will approach every transportation-related project and program as an opportunity to improve public streets and the transportation network for all users, and will work in coordination with other departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to achieve Complete Streets in the unincorporated area of Jackson County.

This consideration will include but not be limited to balancing economic feasibility with planning, design, approval, and implementation processes for construction, reconstruction, maintenance, alteration, or repair of streets, bridges, or other portions of the transportation network; evaluating the effect of the proposed project on safe travel by all users, and identifying alternative measures to mitigate any adverse impacts on such travel that are identified.