RESOLUTION NO.: 041-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS, CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF A POLICY IN SUPPORT OF THE CONCEPT OF “COMPLETE STREETS” FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS.

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At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Johnson County, Kansas, conducted on Thursday, September 1, 2011, there came before the Board for consideration the above referenced matter.

The Board, upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried, adopted Resolution No. 041-11, to wit:

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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 Johnson County Planning Commission; the Johnson County Departments of (i) Planning, Development and Codes, (ii) Public Health, (iii) Public Works, and (iv) Transit; and the Johnson County Park and Recreation District staff; to prepare a policy in support of the concept of Complete Streets for the unincorporated area of Johnson County, Kansas;

AND WHEREAS, attached hereto is a copy of the policy, as recommended by the Johnson County Planning Commission, indicating the Board of County Commissioner’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 Board of County Commissioners of Johnson County, Kansas, that the policy attached hereto as Exhibit A, is and shall be considered
as a policy in support of the Complete Streets concept for unincorporated Johnson County, Kansas.

This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption this 1st day of September 2011.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

ATTEST:

Stephen Powell, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Richard J. Lind, Assistant County Counselor

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

FILED
SEP 01 2011

CLERK OF THE BOARD
JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS
EXHIBIT A
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S RESOLUTION NO. 041-11

COMPLETE STREET POLICY
FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

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 Johnson 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 get 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 motorists, 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: In 1999, the County adopted the Comprehensive Arterial Road Network Plan (CARNP) that recommends that future arterial road improvements include
consideration of the need to safely and adequately accommodate pedestrians, bicyclist, and transit as well as motorist; and

WHEREAS: the Johnson County Rural Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2004, includes numerous recommendations related to improving road safety for all users and supports the principle of Smart Growth; including assuring greater opportunities and improved facilities for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit users; and

WHEREAS: the Johnson County Planning, Development, and Codes 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: for the past ten years Johnson County Public Works has designed and constructed major roadway improvements (175th and 199th Streets) to include opportunities for safer bicycle and pedestrian use; and

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

WHEREAS: Johnson County Parks and Recreation District 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
WHEREAS: Johnson County Transit has studied and will continue to study the need and feasibility of providing future transit service to certain locations within the unincorporated area (e.g., BNSF Intermodal Facility); and

WHEREAS: Johnson County Planning Commission, at its meeting July 26, 2011, reviewed this request and unanimously recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve a policy resolution supporting the concept of Complete Streets for the unincorporated area;

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 Johnson County Departments of Planning, Development, and Codes; Public Works; Public Health; Parks and Recreation District; and Transit 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 Johnson 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.