

RESOLUTION NO. 5672

RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF “ACTIVE LIVING/COMPLETE STREETS” AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO JPB TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE PLANS

WHEREAS, consistent with the City’s designation as a “Governor’s Fit City” and the commitment to providing opportunities, whenever and wherever possible, for healthy and safe physical activity for people who live, work, travel and recreate within the City, the Headwaters Regional Development Commission (HRDC) has partnered with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota to create the Bemidji Area Active Living Partnership (“The Partnership”), also commonly referred to as “Active Living Minnesota”;

WHEREAS, to promote “livable” communities, The Partnership has formulated comprehensive community concepts intended to inspire and enable people to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives, including through adoption of public policy initiative and change; and

WHEREAS, The Partnership and the Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board (the “JPB”) have joined together to propose text amendments to the JPB’s Transportation and Land Use Plans for the Greater Bemidji Area, with a focus on furthering the policy initiatives of the “Complete Streets” theme developed by the Minnesota Complete Streets Coalition; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets advocates development of a balanced community transportation system that integrates all modes of transportation, including pedestrian, bicycle, public transit, and motor vehicles for users of all ages and abilities, and which seeks to provide safe and convenient connections to community destinations, including home, work, school, retail, and recreation, by improving the environment and infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, The Partnership and the Minnesota Complete Streets Coalition hosted a “Complete Streets Workshop” on November 16, 2010, where transportation experts met with city, county, township and other key community leaders to present, educate and advise leaders of the foundational principles for Complete Streets; and

WHEREAS, integration of the Complete Streets foundational principles in transportation and land use decision-making could result in Bemidji being a community:

- where there exists a mutual respect among all modes of transportation
- that has been recognized nationally as a safe and healthy place to live
- that is as accessible for bicyclists and pedestrians as it is for motor vehicles
- where physical activity is safe, easy, accessible, and a common occurrence for residents
- that has strong connections – allowing people to comfortably navigate to and from destinations in the community
- where children can safely walk and bicycle to school; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that a community and streets designed with these principles in mind will be in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the City and its residents, and, specifically, will result in quality of place, sustainable and responsible land use, cost effectiveness, health benefits, transportation options, accessibility, equity, and convenience.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City has reviewed and hereby approves and recommends the JPB’s adoption of the “Active Living” text amendments proposed to the JPB Transportation and Land Use Plans for the Greater Bemidji Area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Bemidji is committed to a philosophy that seeks to expand transportation and recreation options for residents and visitors, including people of all ages and abilities, in the community’s on-going development of a safe, efficient, and balanced multi-modal transportation system.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Councilmember Albrecht, and upon due second by Councilmember Thompson, was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Albrecht, Larson, Waldhausen, Hellquist, Thompson, Johnson
Nays: None
Absent: Negard

Passed: January 18, 2011

ATTEST:


Kay M. Murphy, City Clerk

APPROVED:


David A. Larson, Mayor