

## **RESOLUTION PROMOTING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES and COMPLETE STREETS**

**WHEREAS**, the concept of increasing Livable Communities conveys an appreciation for a greater quality of life and health, encourages a broad range of physical, cultural, social, and economic opportunities, and takes a strategic approach to planning and development impacts that are inclusive of transportation options; and

**WHEREAS**, the concept of Complete Streets encourages more walking and bicycling while improving safety for all users of streets, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and bus riders of all ages and abilities; and

**WHEREAS**, according to 2006 data, South Carolina is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for pedestrian fatalities per 100,000 population and on average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic crash every 8.5 hours in South Carolina (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration); and

**WHEREAS**, since 2000, South Carolina has had the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> highest rate of bicycling deaths per capita in the United States and in 2006, South Carolina was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation among states for bicycle fatalities per million population, with one bicycle fatality every 22.81 days in South Carolina (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration); and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends several approaches to increase physical activity, such as Street-scale and Community-scale urban design and land use policies and practices (<http://www.thecommunityguide.org/pa/>); and

**WHEREAS**, clean air is an essential natural resource for the health of our citizens, and poor air quality can negatively impact economic growth in South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, an emerging body of evidence indicates there is a relationship between the built environment and physical activity, rising rates of overweight and obesity, and many other chronic diseases, and in order to improve the health of South Carolinians, future South Carolina community planning and development should consider the extent to which a community has mixed land use, has a variety of housing options, has sufficient density to provide adequate public transit service to residents, and encourages safe transportation options, such as walking and biking; and

**WHEREAS**, national legislation called the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) authorizes the mainstreaming of bicycle and pedestrian projects into the planning, design and operation of our Nation's transportation system (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/index.htm>).

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Carolina Public Health Association in collaboration with other public and private organizations supports state legislation, local policies and ordinances that promote Livable Communities and Complete Streets and encourages expansion of this knowledge through education and training programs.

Approved this 21st day of May, 2008

*Otis Outing*

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South Carolina Public Health Association

