

BEFORE THE BOARD OF HEALTH
SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT

RESOLUTION #10-01

RE: ENCOURAGING JURISDICTIONS TO ADOPT COMPLETE STREET POLICIES FOR THE POSITIVE HEALTH IMPACT THAT THEY HAVE ON SPOKANE COUNTY RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, “Complete Streets” are designed to provide motorists, bicyclists, transit riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities the opportunity to travel together efficiently and safely; and

WHEREAS, transportation improvements that are recognized as contributing to “Complete Streets” include: crosswalks, sidewalks, lighting, median islands, pedestrian signals, street trees, bike facilities, dedicated bus lanes, transit stop amenities, accessible transit stops, well-placed crossing opportunities, bus pullouts, reductions in number of driveways, and separated sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association, the National Association of City and County Health Officials, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and the Institute of Medicine, have formally recognized linkages between the built environment and human health and call on public health officials to engage in local and regional land use and transportation planning and policy making processes; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, National Association of Local Boards of Health, and the Washington Climate Advisory Team specifically recommend “Complete Street” policies as a strategy to increase active transportation and reduce the negative impacts associated to climate change; and

WHEREAS, in Spokane County, only 41% of adults get the recommended amounts of physical activity and 28% of Spokane County adults are considered obese and the obesity trends keep rising; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that community-scale/street-scale urban design and land use policies have been effective and are considered best practice to increase physical activity of residents in that community; and

WHEREAS, in Spokane County, 65% of carbon monoxide emissions are from vehicle sources and 22% of adults believe air pollution is a problem for them. Asthma is a very serious respiratory disease that affects 11% of adolescents (grades 6-12) and 9% of adults in Spokane County residents. Poor air quality has been linked to triggering asthma attacks. In 2008, there were 4,672 hospitalization for asthma among youth and adults in Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 there were 11 pedestrian related fatalities and 16 bicycle/pedestrian serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, “Complete Streets” may improve air quality by reducing carbon monoxide emissions, and reduce bike and pedestrian collisions and fatalities by providing safety facilities; and

WHEREAS, almost one-third of Americans do not drive and transportation options should be available to all residents, including vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, low-income, and disabled residents, resulting in social equity; and

WHEREAS, “Complete Streets” support sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS, other jurisdictions in our community are looking to adopt "Complete Street" policies, including the City of Spokane's Complete Street Resolution and "Complete Street" like policies passed by other jurisdictions; and

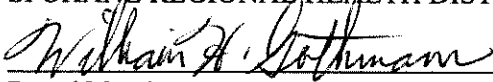
WHEREAS, the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health approved a resolution endorsing the adoption and implementation of "Complete Street" policies by municipalities in Pierce County; and

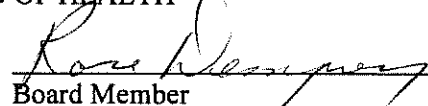
WHEREAS, the Spokane Regional Health District recognizes that the built environment impacts the health of the residents in Spokane County.

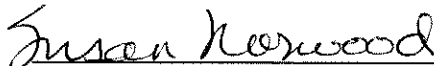
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health supports "Complete Streets" and encourages the jurisdictions in Spokane County to adopt "Complete Streets" policies to better the health of Spokane County residents.

Signed this 22nd day of April, 2010 in Spokane, Washington.

SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH



Board Member

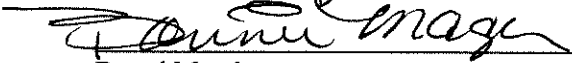

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