

Hennepin County, Minnesota  
RESOLUTION NO. 07-10-489

The following Resolution was offered by the Health and MHP Committee:

WHEREAS, Hennepin County is one of three communities contracted by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota to create Active Living initiatives;

WHEREAS, representatives from Hennepin County; the cities of Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Golden Valley, Hopkins, Independence, Minneapolis, and St. Louis Park; McGough Companies; Metropolitan Council; Park Nicollet Health Services; Robbinsdale School District; Target Corporation; and Three Rivers Park District have guided the county's Active Living process since the Fall of 2006;

WHEREAS, physical inactivity and poor nutrition are leading causes contributing to increasing rates of obesity and other chronic diseases, and adult obesity was declared an epidemic in 2007 by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

WHEREAS, health problems associated with physical inactivity and poor nutrition affect Hennepin County through reduced quality of life and higher medical costs - over \$1 billion in Hennepin County per year;

WHEREAS, residents of Hennepin County often face physical and perceptual barriers that limit their ability and willingness to walk and bike to destinations within the county;

WHEREAS, a 2007 countywide assessment and survey on active living clearly indicated both resident and official desire for increased opportunities and fewer barriers to physical activity;

WHEREAS increased pedestrian and bicycle activity in neighborhoods can enhance social cohesion, increase neighborhood economic viability, and improve safety by having more eyes-on-the-street;

WHEREAS, increased pedestrian and bicycle activity will reduce vehicle emissions and air pollution, thereby decreasing asthma attack rates and emergency room visits, and promoting environmental sustainability;

WHEREAS, public rights-of-way can be designed, constructed, and maintained for automobiles as well as for walking and biking;

WHEREAS, Hennepin County strives to be a leader in non-motorized transportation, environmental, and public health programs; and,

WHEREAS, active living is a way of life that integrates walking and biking into daily routines;

WHEREAS, Hennepin County is home to a broad group of talented and committed city and county employees and residents interested in promoting active living;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board supports the Active Living Hennepin County vision "Hennepin - Active, Fit, and Healthy;"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board supports the Active Living Hennepin County mission to "Plan, provide and promote active living environments and opportunities for everyone;"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board supports the Active Living Hennepin County principles:

- a. Physical activity improves health and quality of life in our communities;
- b. Places should be designed to provide everyone - regardless of age, gender, language, ethnicity, economic status or ability - with a variety of opportunities for safe, convenient, and affordable physical activity;
- c. Development patterns should encourage mixed uses, compact designs, and a variety of transportation choices that link roads, transit, bicycling and walking;
- d. Buildings and their landscapes should be designed with features that promote opportunities for active living and active transportation, including highly visible stairs, orientation to streets and sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and transit stops at main building entries;
- e. Transportation systems, including transit and trails, should provide safe, convenient, and affordable access to destinations such as housing, employment, schools, and community services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs staff to incorporate Active Living policies into physical infrastructure and programs in Hennepin County and to identify funding resources to support active living infrastructure priorities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the county administrator appoint an in-house working group to develop, implement, and evaluate Active Living strategies throughout the county, and that staff shall report annually to the County Board on how Active Living principles and policies are being incorporated into the County's activities.

The question was on the adoption of the Resolution and there were 7 YEAS and 0 NAYS, as follows:

COUNTY OF HENNEPIN BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
Michael Opat	<u>X</u>	---	---
Mark Stenglein	<u>X</u>	---	---
Gail Dorfman	<u>X</u>	---	---
Peter McLaughlin	<u>X</u>	---	---
Linda L Koblick	<u>X</u>	---	---
Penny Steele	<u>X</u>	---	---
Randy Johnson, Chair	<u>X</u>	---	---

RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON 10/23/07

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the County Board