# Proclamation for Walk and Bike to School Day

WHEREAS: Children are safer when communities prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety; and

WHEREAS: Physical activity influences our overall well-being and supports a healthy lifestyle. Choosing to walk or bike to school offers an opportunity to build physical activity into daily routines; and

WHEREAS: Increasing the number of children safely walking and biking to school can reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and even reduce asthma attacks; and

WHEREAS: Studies show that after 20 minutes of physical activity, students tested better in reading, spelling, and math, and were more likely to read above their grade level; and

WHEREAS: Safe Routes to School programs have been shown to reduce the rate of pedestrian injury by 44 percent; and

WHEREAS: Closing learning gaps that were exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic is a priority for schools. Safe Routes to School programs help close that gap by supporting student engagement and focus in the classroom; and

WHEREAS: Safe Routes to School programs highlight that walking or biking to school is an affordable option for families. Busing shortages have schools reimagining their transportation plans, and not every parent or caregiver can afford to drive their student to school. Transportation is the second-highest household expense in the United States; and

WHEREAS: More than 1000 schools across Minnesota have been awarded funding through planning, infrastructure, and non-infrastructure grants from the Minnesota Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS: Walk and Bike to School Days are special opportunities that encourage personal well-being and community engagement. These events support families, caretakers, parents, and students as they make walking and biking to school a habit. Every leader and decisionmaker should witness the value of walkable and bikeable communities and support the choices that make them possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, \*insert Mayors name\*, Mayor of \*insert City name\*, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, \*insert month/date/year\* as:

**\*update which event\* WALK TO SCHOOL DAY or WINTER WALK TO SCHOOL DAY or BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY**

in the City of \*insert City name\*.

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Mayor XX, City of XX Date