



ROSEDALE HEALTHY KIDS INITIATIVE

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27 January 2011

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

The Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative strongly supports **Senate Resolution No. 1805**, the resolution supporting liveable streets policies. As a childhood obesity prevention effort in the Rosedale neighborhood of Wyandotte County, we are confronted daily by the health impacts the lack of safe pedestrian and bicycle transit routes has on our community.

Over 51% of the children in the Rosedale neighborhood are classified as overweight or obese – a startling number that reflects the lack of safe opportunities for active transportation. Although well over half of the students in our neighborhood live within a mile of our elementary schools, there are no walking routes available with continuous sidewalks (and few that have adequate crosswalks). A liveable streets resolution would help to address the severe lack of safe and complete bicycle and pedestrian networks across the state.

Already, the cities of Kansas City/Wyandotte County, Garden City, Topeka, Leawood, and Roeland Park have adopted liveable (complete) streets policies; and many other municipalities are considering similar policies. A clear show of support for SR 1805 will set an example for other Kansas municipalities debating such policies, and will position Kansas as a national leader in supporting healthy lifestyles and active transportation.

Since safe and livable bicycle, pedestrian and transit systems are important to the economy and economic development of Kansas, we would encourage the Kansas Senate to declare support for livable streets policies and urge their adoption at the local, metropolitan, regional, state and national levels.

Sincerely,

Heidi Holliday
Program Manager, Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative