



City Council

Special Recognition - Proclamation Recognizing October as Walk to School Month

Agenda Date: 9/27/2022
Agenda Item Number: 2.B
File Number: 22-0872

Type: recognition **Version:** 1 **Status:** Filed

Title

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Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Move to proclaim October as Walk to School Month.

Report

Issue:

Whether to proclaim October as Walk to School Month.

Staff Contact:

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Presenter(s):

Kerri Wilson, Walk N Roll Supervisor, Intercity Transit
Patrick Murphy, Superintendent, Olympia School District

Background and Analysis:

Olympia partners with other public agencies and schools to promote walking and biking to school. Students who walk and use other forms of active transportation to school also benefit from the increased exercise and interaction with their surroundings, which results in improved school performance.

More students walking and using active transportation results in less traffic congestion and air pollution around schools. In Thurston County, the transportation sector is the second largest producer of greenhouse gas emissions. Making it easier to walk and roll is an important strategy for reaching our emissions reduction goals in the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan.

Led by Intercity Transit's Walk N Roll program, the Cities of Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia, as well as Thurston County, are passing similar resolutions recognizing October as Walk to School Month.

Throughout the school year, many community schools participate in monthly Walk N Roll events, which encourage students to walk, bike, or roll to school. In Olympia, police officers and firefighters frequently join students for the events.

The City is also changing some streets to make it easier for students to walk to school. We recently installed a high visibility crosswalk on Morse Merryman Road near Margaret McKenny Elementary School, and we required that new development add an enhanced crosswalk on Boulevard Road near Washington Middle School.

Next year, we plan to improve the crossing on Boulevard Road near ORLA (Olympia Regional Learning Academy). The new crossings on Boulevard Road between the Union Avenue pathway and Wheeler Avenue will make it safer for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross the street. We will also extend the existing bike corridor from Lions Park to Boulevard Road.

Attachments:

Proclamation