

RESOLUTION 2019-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF POLK CITY, FLORIDA; SUPPORTING CLOSURE OF SIDEWALK GAPS WITHIN ONE MILE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN POLK COUNTY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Polk Vision and the Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) have a shared goal of reducing pedestrian injuries and fatalities in Polk County; and

WHEREAS, sidewalks are an important component of the collaborative strategies of Polk Vision and the TPO to encourage a multi-modal transportation system, establish pedestrian connections between developed areas, schools, and parks, and provide a healthy and safe environment; and

WHEREAS, Polk County's major road network of arterial and collector roadways includes State, County and City roads and is one of the largest in the State of Florida, consisting of over 1,000 miles of roads traversing all of Polk County's jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Smart Growth America released a report entitled *Dangerous By Design*, listing the Lakeland-Winter Haven Metropolitan Area (which includes most of Polk County) as the fifth worst in the United States in terms of pedestrian safety; and

WHEREAS, approximately 60 percent of the major roads in Polk County currently do not have sidewalks on at least one side of the road; and

WHEREAS, on a typical school day, thousands of school children throughout the County are walking along portions of these major roads in order to get to and from school or a bus stop and many of these roads lack sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, Polk Vision's Infrastructure Team, in partnership with the Polk TPO, have evaluated 140 public schools in Polk County and identified 179 miles of major roads (collector and arterial) within one mile of a school that do not have sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, as part of this evaluation, the top 30 schools with the least amount of sidewalk coverage have been identified and a list of sidewalk needs for these schools has been developed; and

WHEREAS, Polk Vision is seeking to engage the County and cities of Polk County to make them aware of these efforts in order to improve pedestrian safety on Polk County's roads and in particular within one mile of public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Polk County Board of County Commissioners (County), and local municipalities have limited funding to address the substantial costs of retrofitting roads with sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the continued development of residential and commercial areas without adequate sidewalks will only contribute to this growing problem; and

WHEREAS, sidewalks constructed in conjunction with new development will serve current and future travel needs and provide the opportunity to form an adequate sidewalk network.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF POLK CITY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS. The above recitals are hereby incorporated into this Resolution and are the factual basis for the passage of this Resolution.

SECTION 2. SUPPORT FOR SIDEWALK GAP CLOSURE. Based upon the above recitals and findings, the City Commission of Polk City ("Commission") hereby resolves to support in concept subject to development of fair, equitable, and lawful funding solutions the following:

1. The City supports Polk Vision, the Polk Vision Infrastructure Team, the Polk TPO, and other partners in reducing Polk County's pedestrian injuries and fatalities and closing the sidewalk gaps within one mile of public schools.

2. The City recognizes the importance of funding sidewalk improvement projects on the major roadway network, especially those sidewalk gaps identified by the Infrastructure Team within one mile of a public school in the City of Fort Meade.

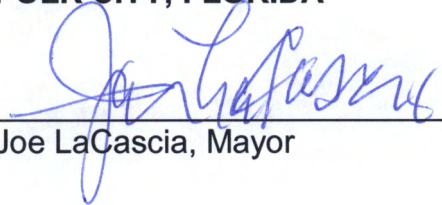
3. Polk City will endeavor to include sidewalk requirements in conjunction with new development or redevelopment consistent with their land development regulations and state law.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. If for any reason a provision of this Resolution or the application thereof to any person, group of persons, or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Resolution are severable.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

INTRODUCED, PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED by the City Commission of Polk City, Florida, in Regular Session, this 19th day of November, 2019.

POLK CITY, FLORIDA



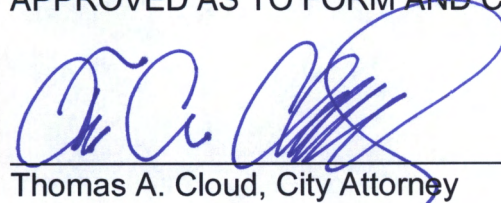
Joe LaCascia, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patricia R. Jackson, City Manager/Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:



Thomas A. Cloud, City Attorney