

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2015-030

Proclaiming the Month of May as Creating Safe and Healthy Streets Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Creating safe and healthy streets are an important component to healthier communities, a stronger economy, and a cleaner environment. Engaging our communities as partners is a critical component to creating our safest and healthiest streets.
- b. Like the rest of the nation, Multnomah County experiences too many fatal and serious road-related crashes. Bicyclists and pedestrians in particular are disproportionately affected and are accounted for 20% of the Portland region's fatal and serious crashes.
- c. Walking and bicycling levels in the United States decreased 67% between 1960 and 2000. However, several studies have concluded that as the number of people walking and riding bicycles increases, the rate of crashes for pedestrians and bicyclists decrease. Similarly, another study found that when the rate of cyclists increases in a city, the number of all road-related fatalities decreases. Thus, communities that work to improve the safety for biking and walking, and that promote walking and biking as a fun, health way to travel can improve the safety of all roadway users.
- d. Multnomah County and its partners are working to promote multi-disciplinary efforts to create safer, healthier streets in our community. These programs balance education and encouragement for both youth and adults, working with enforcement agencies to enforce existing vehicle laws, and solutions in engineering our infrastructure.
- e. Safe Routes to School is a national model that provides a multidisciplinary effort for improving the walking and biking conditions in communities. Safe Routes to School also has an important multiplier affect where students who are exposed to safety education inform and teach their families. Oregon celebrates the month of May as the Walk and Bike Challenge month in which over 56,000 students statewide participated in events to promote safer walking and bicycling in 2014.

- f. VisionZero is a growing movement in Oregon that envisions policy makers, agency staff, and the general public working together toward a unified vision in which no number of traffic-related fatalities is acceptable, and in which every crash is preventable. The advocacy groups of OregonWalks and the Bicycle Transportation Alliance recently released their recommendations to achieving VisionZero in Oregon that rely on infrastructure design, safety-oriented policies, and public engagement and outreach to address behavior and culture.

- g. Multnomah County is committed to reducing the number of fatal and serious crashes, and recognizes that bicyclists and pedestrians are our roads most vulnerable users. The County supports continued collaboration with our partners in promoting safe walking and biking as a key strategy to creating safer, healthier streets in Multnomah County.

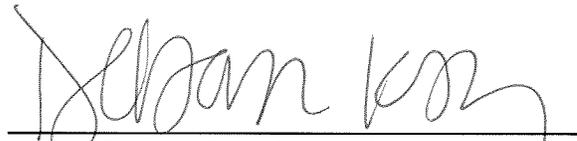
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

The month of May as Creating Safe and Healthy Streets Month in Multnomah County.

ADOPTED this 16th day of April, 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON





Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY



By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY: Commissioner Loretta Smith, District 2 and Commissioner Diane McKeel, District 4.