RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF ST. MARYS, GA TO INITIATE THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING GUIDELINES, PROCESSES, AND PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING A COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM; TO DIRECT THAT CITY STAFF BEGIN TRAINING ON COMPLETE STREET CONCEPTS; AND TO DIRECT CITY STAFF TO BEGIN INCORPORATING COMPLETE STREET CONCEPTS INTO NEW CITY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.

WHEREAS, the term "Complete Streets" describes a comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motor vehicle drivers, public transportation riders and drivers, golf carts, emergency vehicles, commercial freight delivery vehicles and people of all ages and abilities, including children, youth, families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration has found measurable improvements to pedestrian safety from Complete Streets that combined sidewalks, raised medians, better bus stop placement, traffic-calming measures, and accommodations for people with disabilities, and bicycle safety studies show that the addition of well-designed, on-road bicycle lanes reduces the incidence of crashes by approximately 50%; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Marys wishes to encourage walking, bicycling, and public transportation use as safe, convenient, environmentally friendly, and economical modes of transportation that promote health and independence for all people; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Marys acknowledges the benefits and value for the public health and welfare of increasing transportation by walking, bicycling, and public transportation in order to address a wide variety of societal challenges, including pollution, climate change, traffic congestion, social isolation, obesity, physical inactivity, limited recreational opportunities, sprawl, population growth, safety, and excessive expenses; and

WHEREAS, sedentary lifestyles and limited opportunities to integrate exercise into daily activities are factors contributing to increased obesity among adults and children and numerous correlated adverse consequences, such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, certain cancers, asthma, low self-esteem, reduced academic performance, depression, and other debilitating diseases; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Marys recognizes that the careful planning and coordinated development of Complete Streets infrastructure offers long-term cost savings for local governments by reducing road construction, repair, and maintenance costs and expanding the tax base; improves public health and thereby lowers health care expenses; provides financial benefits to property owners, businesses, and investors through increased tourist revenue, business

relocation, and property values; and decreases air and water pollution; in contrast, streets that are not conducive to travel by all impose significant costs on government, employers, and individuals; and

WHEREAS, streets are a key public space, shape the experience of residents of and visitors to the City of St. Marys, directly affect public health and welfare, and provide the framework for current and future development; and

WHEREAS, numerous states, counties, cities, and agencies have adopted Complete Streets policies and legislation in order to further the health, safety, welfare, economic vitality, and environmental well-being of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Marys wishes to encourage public participation in community decisions concerning street design and use to ensure that such decisions: (a) result in streets that meet the needs of all users, and (b) are responsive to needs of individuals and groups that traditionally are not incorporated in public infrastructure design; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Marys recognizes the importance of Complete Streets infrastructure and modifications that enable safe, convenient, and comfortable travel for all users, such as sidewalks, shared use paths, bicycle lanes, paved shoulders, street trees and landscaping, planting strips, accessible curb ramps, crosswalks, refuge islands, pedestrian signals, signs, street furniture, bicycle parking facilities, and other features assisting in the provision of safe travel for all users, such as traffic calming circles, narrow vehicle lanes, raised medians, dedicated bicycle lanes, as well as other features identified in the Camden County Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Marys therefore, in light of the foregoing benefits and considerations, wishes to initiate a Complete Streets program and desires that its streets form a comprehensive and integrated transportation network promoting safe, equitable, and convenient travel for all users while preserving flexibility, recognizing community context, and using the latest and best design guidelines and standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF ST. MARYS MAYOR AND COUNCIL that the City of St. Marys hereby recognizes the importance of creating Complete Streets that enable safe travel by all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation riders and drivers, golf carts, emergency vehicles, commercial freight delivery vehicles and people of all ages and abilities, including children, youth, families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Works Department should make Complete Streets practices a routine part of everyday operations, should approach every transportation project and program as an opportunity to improve public streets and the transportation network for all users, and should work in coordination with other departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to achieve Complete Streets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that trainings in how to integrate, accommodate, and balance the needs of all users should be provided for planners, civil and traffic engineers, project

managers, plan reviewers, inspectors, and other personnel responsible for the design and construction of streets, bridges, and other portions of the transportation network.

AUTHORIZED THIS 18th DAY OF APRIL 2016.

John F. Morrissey, MAYOR

Deborah Walker-Reed, CITY CLERK