RESOLUTION #2015-008

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF POLSON CITY COMMISSION TO ADOPT A SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE STREETS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Polson accepted the *Polson Area Transportation Plan* in September, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Polson Area Transportation Plan contains Transportation System Management (TSM) recommendations including TSM 5.4 *Non-Motorized Network and Considerations*; and

WHEREAS, the City of Polson adopted the Polson Growth Policy pursuant to Resolution #928 on June 19, 2006, which includes the section in 5.13 *Bike/Pedestrian Pathways*; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a Safe and Accessible Streets policy would help to implement the *Polson Area Transportation Plan* and the *Polson Growth Policy*; and

WHEREAS, in the summary report of the Heart and Soul Project dated 2/28/14, residents indicated that more bike/pedestrian pathways were desired in eight out of eight neighborhood gatherings; and

WHEREAS in responses gathered by St. Joseph Medical Center through surveys and focus groups, one of the top health concerns in the local area was child and adult obesity, the rise in diabetes and senior services availability; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the City of Polson Commission to undertake transportation improvements that are planned, designed and constructed to facilitate active transportation that increases the general health, safety and accessibility for all citizens and is in conjunction with all aforementioned plans and studies; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a Safe and Accessible Streets policy will establish a clear policy assuring the needs of adjacent land uses as well as all transportation users including, but not limited to vehicle users, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and persons of all ages and abilities are considered.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Polson City Commission hereby adopts the Safe and Accessible Streets Policy as set forth in Attachment A of this Resolution.

Ayes 7 Nays _____ Abstentions _____

PASSED AND APPROVED this 6th day of April 2015.

Heather Knutson

Heather Knutson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cora E. Pritt

Cora E. Pritt, City Clerk

ATTACHMENT A

SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE STREETS POLICY

Section 1.1: Subject to budget needs and constraints, the City of Polson will plan for, design, construct, operate and maintain appropriate facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, transit vehicles and riders, and users of all ages and abilities, in all new construction and reconstruction projects subject to the exceptions contained herein

Safe and Accessible Streets principles will be applied on new city projects, privately funded development and incrementally through reconstruction projects where the scope of work to meet Safe and Accessible Streets standards is proportional to the project and meets the need as outlined in Polson Growth Policy and the Polson Area Transportation Plan. Consideration of Safe and Accessible Streets projects will be accordance with the aforementioned policies and plans, available budget, and standard planning and engineering principles related to Safe and Accessible Streets practices.

Safe and Accessible Streets principles will be applied in street construction and reconstruction projects except in unusual or extraordinary circumstances. Safe and Accessible Street requirements will not be applied when:

1. Cyclist and pedestrians are prohibited by law from using the facility. In this case, alternative facilities and accommodations may be provided within the same transportation corridor if budget constraints allow.

2. The existing right-of-way doesn't allow for the accommodation of all users. In this case, alternatives such as revised travel lane configurations, paved shoulders, signage, traffic calming, education or enforcement may be utilized to accommodate potential users.

3. The cost of accommodating all users would be excessively disproportionate to the established need.

4. The construction is not practically feasible due to adverse environmental factors or negative impacts to neighboring land uses, (impact from right-of-way acquisition).

5. Undertaking ordinary street maintenance activities or when interim measures are being taken on temporary detour routes.

6. Implementing regular public works or utility maintenance activities or repairs.

Excluding exceptions 5 and 6, the City must, prior to waiver of this Resolution, make specific findings of fact to support the exception.

The city staff is strongly encouraged during maintenance activities to find opportunities to improve the travelling environment for other roadway users. For example, during routine restriping maintenance activities, budget permitting, city staff could improve crosswalks or install bike lanes or shoulder stripes in accordance with recommendations found in the Polson Transportation Plan or the Polson Growth Policy.