



CITY OF BILLINGS

BILL COLE, MAYOR

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS ~ walking helps prevent heart disease, stroke, some cancers, and mental health challenges, while also improving the health of our environment; and

WHEREAS ~ when a community is walkable it is easier for residents to take care of their daily needs, engage with their neighbors, and enjoy where they live, all of which are especially important during the current COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS ~ the City of Billings and its public works department are committed to designing complete streets which support safe and accessible mobility for all; and

WHEREAS ~ in the 2016 Billings growth policy endorses the principle of walkability as an essential element for achieving various community goals; and

WHEREAS ~ the city council identified creating safer routes to schools as one of its 2020 Strategy Planning Priorities because safer routes promote physical activity, reduce vehicle trips, and help students arrive at school safe and ready to learn; and

WHEREAS ~ October 7th was National Walk to School Day, during which communities are encouraged to celebrate the benefits of walking to school so our youngest residents will learn health habits that will serve them for a lifetime; and

WHEREAS ~ drivers should be vigilant at all times and remember that crosswalks exist at every intersection--whether painted or not--to ensure the safety of pedestrians; and

WHEREAS ~ a safe pedestrian environment promotes economic development and local businesses, while increasing property values.

NOW THEREFORE, I, William A. Cole, Mayor of Billings, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2020 as

"WALKTOBER" and NATIONAL PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MONTH

in Billings and urge that we all rededicate ourselves to enjoying the benefits of walking and ensuring the safety of pedestrians throughout our community.

William A. Cole, Mayor

