



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**~ physical activity is one of the most important steps people can take to improve their health, and walking is one of the simplest and most forms of physical activity; and

**WHEREAS**~ walking is a low-risk activity that does not require any special skills or facilities and can be done virtually anywhere and anytime; and

**WHEREAS**~ safe pedestrian environments not only save lives but support economic development and local businesses, while increasing property values; and

**WHEREAS**~ the COVID-19 pandemic has reintroduced many residents to the enjoyment of walking for better health, entertainment, and social connections; and

**WHEREAS**~ walkability has been identified as an important contributor to the quality of life for current and potential Billings residents and neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**~ several community-informed plans prioritize the need to enhance walkability in Billings, including the 2021–2023 Yellowstone County Community Health Improvement Plan, the 2016 Billings Growth Policy, the 2017 Billings Area Bikeway and Trails Master Plan, and the Billings Complete Streets Policy; and

**WHEREAS**~ recent actions taken by the Billings City Council, city staff, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, TrailNet, and other organizations, or made possible by the 2020 federal BUILD grant, the Capital Improvement Plan, and other planning and financial programs have contributed to the quantity and quality of sidewalks, trails, and other important pedestrian infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**~ the updated Billings Safe Routes to Schools assessment for elementary schools in Billings School District #2 is due to be published in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**~ Billings is at an important crossroads where it must carefully consider how to best to address the pedestrian and walkability needs of its citizens while navigating city growth.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, William A. Cole, Mayor of the City of Billings, do hereby proclaim 2022 as the:

**"YEAR OF WALKABILITY"**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William A. Cole". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

William A. Cole, Mayor