

Grand Junction

State of Colorado

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** *the lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity, diabetes and other health problems among children and being able to walk or bicycle to school offers an opportunity to build activity into daily routine; and*
- WHEREAS,** *driving students to school by private vehicle contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution and the lives of hundreds of children could be saved each year if communities take steps to make pedestrian safety a priority; and*
- WHEREAS,** *an important role for parents and caregivers is to teach children about pedestrian safety and become aware of the difficulties and dangers that children face on their trip to school each day including the health and environmental risks related to physical inactivity and air pollution; and*
- WHEREAS,** *the City of Grand Junction has signed onto the U.S. Department of Transportation's Mayors' Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets and will be taking actions over the next year to improve safety for bicycle riders and pedestrians of all ages and abilities; and*
- WHEREAS,** *the Grand Junction Urban Trails Committee is an active participant in the Safe Routes to School program to educate students on safely walking and biking to school and has identified infrastructure priorities related to safe routes; and*
- WHEREAS,** *accommodating and promoting active transportation has been shown to improve citizens' health, well-being, and quality of life, to increase sense of community, to improve traffic safety and congestion, and to reduce air pollution, all of which contribute to Grand Junction "Becoming the Most Livable Community West of the Rockies"; and*
- WHEREAS,** *School District 51 schools will join schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Month throughout October with approximately 8,500 students from Rocky Mountain, Lincoln Orchard Mesa, Tope and Shelledy Elementary Schools, as well as West, Bookcliff and Fruita Middle Schools walking and rolling to school on Wednesday October 14th, along with parents, teachers and community leaders.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phyllis Norris, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2015 as

"WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH"

in the City of Grand Junction and call upon all citizens to consider the safety and health of children this month and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 7th day of October 2015.

Phyllis Norris

Mayor

