



October 3, 2011

Fort Myers City Council
2200 2nd Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3026

P.O. BOX 2218

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33902

239-343-2000

CAPE CORAL HOSPITAL

GULF COAST MEDICAL CENTER

HEALTHPARK MEDICAL CENTER

LEE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

THE REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

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Dear Fort Myers City Council:

Lee Memorial Health System encourages the City of Fort Myers to support and adopt the resolution known as Complete Streets. We are active members of the Lee County Injury Prevention Coalition, Bike/Walk/Lee and Fit-Friendly Southwest Florida, all community partnerships that encourage the safe and healthy pursuit of pedestrian and cyclist use of our streets and sidewalks. Having Fort Myers recognize the importance of complete streets will further advance the safety and accessibility of our infrastructure for our residents.

Our Community Health Visioning 2017 research using national benchmark data finds that Lee County continues to see more motor vehicle crash deaths per 100,000 at 24.7 than the State of Florida (18.3) or the national average (14.3). Over the past 2 years our Level II Trauma Center at Lee Memorial Hospital saw 357 pedestrian or cyclist trauma patients, with conditions resulting in 27 deaths. Working together we can have safer streets for all users and help to reduce both deaths and injuries with safer conditions.

Increasingly obesity is a growing concern for everyone in health care. Our Lee County obesity rate continues to increase and with it comes the cost of increased obesity-related health conditions: diabetes, asthma, heart disease, depression and more. From 2007 to 2011 our community increased from below the national average at 23% obese to now above the national average at 29.3% obese. We all need to focus on reversing this trend and more active lifestyles, including safe bicycling and walking in our neighborhoods and downtowns, can be an important part of this healthier lifestyle. Complete Streets can help to achieve this reversal.

Please vote to support the Complete Streets Resolution for the City of Fort Myers.

Sincerely,

James R. Nathan
President