

FREEWAYS LOCATED NEAR SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, One of the objects of PTA is to promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school, and community¹; and

WHEREAS, Studies indicate that the development of lung capacity of children who live within 500 meters of a freeway is significantly impaired and that other serious health problems are linked to proximity to freeways^{2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19}; and

WHEREAS, Children spend a significant portion of each day at school^{20, 21}; and

WHEREAS, The Utah State Office of Education considers proximity to freeways a hazard for schools^{22, 23}; and

WHEREAS, The Utah State Office of Education also states that “hazardous conditions and installations in the vicinity of, or as part of, school sites must be avoided”^{22, 23}; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies encourage the Utah Department of Transportation and city, county, and state governing bodies to enact policies that would require consideration of proximity to schools when determining routes for new major roadways.

Documentation:

¹Utah PTA Mission Statement, Utah PTA Handbook, 2008-09

²Dr. W. James Gauderman, PhD, Hita Vora, MS, Prof. Rob McConnell, MD, Kiros Berhane, PhD, Prof. Frank Gilliland, MD, Prof. Duncan Thomas, PhD, Fred Lurmann, MS, Edward Avol, MS, Nino Kunzli, MD, Michael Jerrett, PhD, and Prof. John Peters, MD, “Effect of exposure to traffic on lung development from 10 to 18 years of age: a cohort study”, *Lancet*, 17 February 2007, Vol. 369, Issue 9561, pages 571-577, [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(07\)60037-3/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(07)60037-3/fulltext)

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