

June 21, 2010

**Press Release Statement:** Kansas City Star, St. Louis Post Dispatch, Springfield News-Leader, Columbia Tribune

Missouri PTA, headquartered in Columbia, MO, recently passed at their June Board meeting in Columbia a position statement supporting city government in Missouri to look at their infrastructure in neighborhoods that support school buildings.

Due to aging or insufficient infrastructure many children do not feel safe walking to and from neighborhood schools. While at the same time, several programs designed to get children more active and bring together a closer relationship between schools and communities have come into existence with a focus on walking to school. Safety is often the primary concern parents cite for not wanting their children to walk to and from school. Often these safety issues can be resolved by providing maintained sidewalks, crosswalks, crossing signals, traffic signs or signals and street lighting. In addition children and parents feel safer walking in an environment free from dangerous building, graffiti, excessive weeds and overgrown trees on unkempt or abandoned properties.

Missouri PTA applauds and will support the efforts of city government<sup>1</sup> to work with schools, parents and their communities in seeking ways to improve the infrastructure around schools.

<sup>1</sup> [including Kansas City who recently adopted a Resolution which allocates supplemental funds for neighborhood level improvements,]

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<sup>1</sup> included only in the submission to the KC Star.