May 17, 2021

RE: Agenda Item Ref. # WS051221-21

Dear Rapid City Council Members,

We are writing to you as members of Live Well Black Hills (LWBH): a coalition of community leaders from public and nonprofit organizations who work to make the Black Hills a healthier, safer and more livable place. We are asking you today to support the asks the Council to support the 5’ sidewalk installation required along Eglin Street, Rapid City, per City Ordinance 12.08.060.

Sidewalks create a community that is safer and more accessible for residents of all income levels, providing an important mode of access to businesses and schools. Building sidewalks creates commerce, economic, environmental and health benefits. Sidewalks are a safe place for physical activity for recreation and as a transportation alternative.

Under the city’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2020), the City of Rapid City highlighted its goals for bicycling to improve facilities and conditions for bicycling and walking and to promote walking as a viable mode of transportation. To achieve this, the city must understand and prioritize the building of sidewalks in areas currently lacking and in areas of future growth. The area in question may not see frequent foot or bike traffic now but is poised to see continued growth in which case sidewalks are necessary.

We ask City Council members to support sidewalk installation proposed in Agenda Item Ref. # WS051221-21. The walkability of our community is important to further promoting its growth, access, and overall livability.

Sincerely,

Live Well Black Hills
livewellblackhills@gmail.com