

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1154

TITLE: Resolution Addressing the Need for Crosswalks Across Southwest 35th Place and Southwest 23rd Street

AUTHOR(S): Senate President Oscar Santiago Perez

SPONSORS: Senate President Pro-Tempore Nathan McGinnis, Judiciary Chair Jonathan C. Stephens, Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R.C. Marcelino, Majority Party Leader Simone Liang, Senator Raj Mia, Senator Chalisa Budhai, Senator Anghelo Gangano, Senator Saketh Damara,

WHEREAS, pedestrian safety has been an important effort for the University of Florida and Gainesville community; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Senate has approved multiple resolutions advocating for the development of crosswalks around campus and near student populations [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Southwest 35th Place is a road adjacent to apartments with high student populations, such as Gainesville Place, Enclave, Chase Hollows, and Ridgemar Commons; and,

WHEREAS, students and members of the Gainesville community often need to cross the road at Southwest 35th Place during the weekend to utilize the bus stop to come to campus or go to Walmart at Butler Plaza while using Bus Route 37 and during weekdays and weekdays to use bus route 35 [2][3]; and,

WHEREAS, Southwest 23rd Street is a road adjacent to apartments with high student populations, including University Club Apartments, University Commons, Countryside Apartments, and Towne Parc Apartments; and,

WHEREAS, students and members of the Gainesville community often need to cross the road at Southwest 23rd Street to utilize the bus stop across University Club Apartments, Towne Parc to use Bus Route 37, 35 and 9 [2][3][4]; and,

WHEREAS, pedestrian crosswalk visibility enhancements have been proven to be effective at reducing the pedestrian crash risk, with “[h]igh-visibility crosswalk markings [being] shown to reduce pedestrian crashes by up to 48%” [5]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need to continue to expand traffic safety efforts within the Gainesville community and especially in areas with high student populations.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the installation of flashing pedestrian signs and visibly painted crosswalks across Southwest 35th Place and Southwest 23rd Street to allow for the safe crossing of pedestrians as they utilize the busses throughout the day.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate will uphold its commitment to supporting pedestrian safety measures by advocating for increased protective measures with the aim of reducing preventable accidents.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President Ben Sasse, Vice President of Student Life Heather White, Student Body President Olivia Green, Nightlife Navigators Agency Head Conor Lynch, Department Head for City of Gainesville Public Works Philip Mann, City Manager Cynthia Curry, Mayor Harvey Ward, Gainesville City Commissioner Casey Willits

[1] <https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-1002-School-Zone-Safety-Act.pdf>

[2] <http://go-rtts.com/route035-reitz-union-to-sw-35th-place/>

- [3] <http://go-rtts.com/route037-reitz-union-to-butler-plaza-transfer-station/>
- [4] <http://go-rtts.com/http/go-rttscom/rts009-reitz-union-to-hunters-run-2/>
- [5] <https://trec.pdx.edu/sites/default/files/Peter%20Eun%20FHWA%20STEP.pdf>