

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1171

TITLE: Resolution Advocating for the Consideration of a New Crosswalk Across Gale Lemerand Drive Near the New Physics Building

AUTHORS: Senator Bryan Garcia-Ramos

SPONSORS: Judiciary Chair Jonathan C. Stephens, Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R.C. Marcelino, Senator Matthew Reich, Senator Saketh Damara, Senator Laurie Wang

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville—particularly the areas adjacent to and comprising the University of Florida—has been the site of incidents of pedestrian injury and fatality [1]; and,

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles reported that in Alachua County, there had been 161 motor vehicle crashes involving pedestrians, of which 122 resulted in injury, and 12 sadly resulted in fatalities [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida and City of Gainesville have displayed their commitment to pedestrian safety in the past by constructing crosswalks across University Avenue [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Gale Lemerand Drive is a four-lane thoroughfare serving motor vehicle traffic through the heart of the University of Florida campus; and,

WHEREAS, on weekdays during class time there are large volumes of pedestrian traffic across Gale Lemerand Drive between the New Physics Building and the Hume Red One parking lot; and,

WHEREAS, Gale Lemerand Drive sees large volumes of motor vehicle traffic that pose a health and safety risk to unprotected pedestrians; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Senate proposes that a viable solution to this problem would be the construction of a crosswalk at the designated location accompanied by the installation of flashing crosswalk indicator lights; and,

WHEREAS, the construction of a crosswalk at the designated location would not pose a logistical challenge given that the section of Gale Lemerand Drive in question is already under a road restriction for the shared use path; and,

WHEREAS, the construction of a crosswalk at the designated location would serve to further the traffic calming efforts currently being undertaken by the University of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, the construction of a crosswalk at the designated location on campus would serve to further the efforts of the City of Gainesville to increase the level of safety that pedestrians enjoy and decrease the potential for injurious or fatal motor vehicle crashes in the city; and,

WHEREAS, past efforts to curb pedestrian injury and death in Gainesville have been reactive, the University of Florida Student Senate believes that it is in the best interests if the University of Florida and Gainesville communities to be proactive in this matter and build urban infrastructure that is aimed towards enhancing pedestrian safety; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate holds in the highest regard the safety of pedestrians in the areas adjacent to and comprising the University of Florida and the City of Gainesville at large.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the investigation into, and construction of, a crosswalk between the New Physics Building and the Hume Red One parking lot accompanied by the installation of flashing crosswalk indicator lights.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to City of Gainesville Mayor Harvey L. Ward, Jr., City of Gainesville Mayor Pro-Tem Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville City Manager Cynthia W. Curry, and University of Florida Transportation and Parking Services Senior Director Scott Fox.

[1] - <https://alligator.org/article/2022/11/pedestrian-hit-on-gainesville-west-university-avenue-near-seagle-building>

[2] - https://www.flhsmv.gov/pdf/crashreports/crash_facts_2021.pdf

[3] - <https://www.wcjb.com/2023/06/13/new-pedestrian-crosswalks-will-be-put-university-avenue/>