

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1128

TITLE: A Resolution Advocating for Coverage at the Lake Alice Conservation Area Bus Stop

AUTHOR(S): Senator Hunter Monson

SPONSOR(S): Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton, Deputy Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Senator Chalisa Budhai, Senator Meagan Lamey, Senator Isha Khan, Senator Raj Mia, Senator Arturo Zárrate,Volunteers for International Student Affairs Vice President of Internal Affairs Hana Ali, Senator Elizabeth Insuasti, Senator Vivian Phung, Senator Aaron Rubaii, Senator Aleah Henley, Senator Laurie Wang, Senator Jonathan Bedine, Senator Gabriela Prieto, Senator Laura Bryan

WHEREAS, the Lake Alice Conservation Area Bus Stop, Stop Code: 1482, is a widely used stop by students who study under the wide scope of environmental and/or biological sciences as well as faculty/students who work at the Cancer Genetic Research Building on Mowry Road [1]; and,

WHEREAS, “the Regional Transit System bus service is owned and operated by the City of Gainesville, and UF contracts with RTS to provide fare-free transportation for students, faculty and staff with a valid Gator 1 ID,” and the Regional Transit System (RTS) is widely used by commuters to the University of Florida [2]; and,

WHEREAS, Route 9 passes through the Lake Alice Conservation Area Bus Stop, which is used by many students commuting towards Williston Road [2][3]; and,

WHEREAS, buses utilizing the Route 9 route operate from the Reitz (via The Hub) to Hunters Run, which is located slightly under 4 miles from The Hub [3][4]; and,

WHEREAS, as of January 17, 2024, Route 9 had 60 listed entries from the Reitz (via The Hub) to Hunters Run from 6:58 A.M. to 11:09 P.M. [3]; and,

WHEREAS, important research is conducted by students & faculty at the University of Florida Genetics Institute (UFGI), and such research may be conducted well into the evening after the sun has gone down; and,

WHEREAS, the Lake Alice Conservation Area Bus Stop is widely used by UFGI students, faculty, & staff, which has no overhead coverage & a lack of significant lighting; and,

WHEREAS, the Lake Alice Conservation Area Bus Stop is located slightly southwest from where Mowry Road & Gale Lemerand Drive intersect, which are among two of the most used roads on the University of Florida campus [5]; and,

WHEREAS, recorded October 2023, there was 38302 total RTS ridership using Route 9 within the month [6]; and,

WHEREAS, waiting shelters are important due to them “offering commuters a safe space to wait for the bus,” promoting usage of the RTS system, deters attacks on waiting riders, being potential business opportunities with placed advertisements, & are “low-cost and easy assembly in your preferred location” [7]; and,

WHEREAS, due to funding concerns, it becomes extremely difficult for every bus stop to have a bench &/or waiting shelter, and thus, the allocated stops with such amenities are determined based on the volume of ridership [8]; and,

WHEREAS, with increased cold weather, it is of the utmost importance that a shelter be built as soon as possible at the Lake Alice Conservation Area Bus Stop to protect riders from rain & frigid temperatures as well as promoting safety for riders awaiting their bus [9]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the benefits that additional coverage for bus stops offers; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for increased sheltering at RTS stops that expect a high-volume of riders; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of commuters to campus & their reliance on an efficient & safe RTS system; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate calls for the immediate addition of a waiting shelter at the Lake Alice Conservation Area Bus Stop & any other high-volume RTS stops that so need it in the future.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Transit Operations Manager Roy Darnold, Assistant Transit Operations Manager Helen Harris, Business Services Manager Kimberly Sweigard, Transit Director Jesus Gomez, Gainesville City Commissioner District III Casey Willits, Associate Vice President of Business Affairs Brandi Renton

- [1] <https://ufl.transloc.com/t/stops/4178862>
- [2] <https://taps.ufl.edu/alternative-transportation/rts/>
- [3] <https://go-rts.com/rts009-reitz-union-to-hunters-run/>
- [4] <https://www.huntersrungainesville.com/hunters-run-gainesville-fl>
- [5] <https://facilities.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/plan/2020-2030/data/Transpo%20DandA%202020.pdf>
- [6] https://data.cityofgainesville.org/Mobility/RTS-Ridership-by-route-by-month/rkug-zh32/about_data
- [7] <https://www.handi-hut.com/benefits-of-waiting-shelters-for-bus-stops/>
- [8] <https://www.fayobserver.com/story/news/2019/01/20/faywhat-why-dont-all-bus-stops-have-shelters/6244366007/>
- [9] <https://apnews.com/article/polar-vortex-cold-climate-change-hot-cc1b0d7a04e7ef6d59c4882a211046ce>