

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1199**

**TITLE: A Resolution Advocating for Active Construction Transparency & Proper Notice**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Hunter Monson, Senator Vivienne Serret**

**SPONSOR(S): Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton, Senate President John Brinkman, Senator Marian Enriquez, Senator Christian Jubran, Delta Upsilon President Nicholas Andrews, Senator Michael Lim, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Ad-Hoc Committee Chairwoman Chalisa Budhai, Senator Daniel Permane, Senator Annabella Vigna, Judiciary Chairman Aaron Amster, Mental Health Ad-Hoc Committee Chairwoman Liang**

**WHEREAS**, University of Florida students are not notified of new construction beginning on & around campus; and,

**WHEREAS**, University of Florida students are left unaware as to the full extent, timing, & location of new construction beginning on campus; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is already a means for the University of Florida to reach all of its students about important information in the form of UF-ALERT[1][6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, transparency regarding construction on & around campus is of the utmost importance to keep students informed about any major hindrances to travel prior to their occurrence [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, current & future students of the University of Florida are blindsided when major projects are suddenly started with little-to-no prior disclosure regarding their timeline & other possible implications; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Broward Food Hall Dining Tent & Broward Dining Hall renovations were erected & begun respectively without properly consulting the student body about the start or projected end of the project, hampering the ability to access food without proper warning when signing up for the dorm [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, current residents of the Broward Area, Yulee Area, Beaty Towers, Jennings, & Honors Village residence halls did not receive proper prior notice of the construction until after the on-campus housing application deadline passed; and,

**WHEREAS**, the lack of prior disclosure regarding the construction of Broward Dining Hall fostered a lack of transparency for any students that purchased a meal plan & planned to

primarily use it at that location; and,

**WHEREAS**, traffic along West University Avenue was made substantially worse when multiple construction projects were started on & around campus in the Fall 2023 semester; and,

**WHEREAS**, construction on & around the Reitz Union lawn has hindered travel & foot traffic in the immediate area as it began with no prior warning or indication as to what that timeline would be; and,

**WHEREAS**, sudden road & pathway closures pose a significant burden on individuals with disabilities as a 1994 study found that “two-thirds of NHIS-D respondents under age 65 who reported the existence of one or more disabling conditions drove a car every day or occasionally” [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Curb-Cut Effect “means eliminating barriers to economic inclusion & civic participation” & initially was an “advocacy effort by people with disabilities & their allies to improve accessibility in public spaces, particularly for those using wheelchairs, mobility aids, or other assistive devices” [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, as of February 2024, many of the walkway & road closures have not provided additional ADA accommodations for individuals with disabilities & have not given prior disclosure regarding the closed areas nor have provided adequate public notice of plans that comply with ADA requirements [8][9]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the 2023 Fiscal Year, the Regional Transition System (RTS) reported that the highest volume of RTS ridership occurs between October & January, which is when the largest road & walkway construction projects started on campus & on West University Avenue [10][11]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the sudden road construction creates substantial traffic that hinders vehicle efficiency in the affected aforementioned regions of campus & the surrounding area & subsequently impacts RTS productivity & effectiveness; and,

**WHEREAS**, continuing to this current day, these projects hinder the ability for students to properly navigate the University of Florida without proper warning or indication to when such closures may finish, thus, creating the need for a system that provides prior notice to construction projects that occur on & around campus; and,

**WHEREAS**, the timely implementation of coverage & notice of any active construction projects & upcoming major closures are integral to properly accommodating the needs of students; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the need for active construction transparency from the University of Florida administration in informing its students of construction beginning on or around campus before it begins, the project being completed, & the projected timeline of the project; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates that the most effective way for the University of Florida to practice active

construction transparency would be to utilize a student notice system infrastructure already used by UF-ALERT; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that action must be taken in making the campus more accommodating for its current & incoming students by guaranteeing the aforementioned acts of construction transparency & strongly suggests that the University of Florida take the aforementioned action.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Provost Scott Angle, and Interim Director of TAPS Lynda Reinhart, Associate Director for the Center for Instructional Technology and Training Kimbley Standifer, Transportation Manager Jeremiah Mcinnis, TAPS Associate Director Ronald Fuller, Associate Vice President for Business Affairs Brandi Renton, 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, Assistant Vice President of Planning, Design, and Construction and University Architect Cydney McGlothlin, Contracts Administrator Mercedes Bongiovanni.*

*Proper author's credit is to be given to Max Kappalman for aiding in the drafting of this bill.*

[1] <https://ufalert.ufl.edu/about/>

[2] <https://ascelibrary.org/doi/10.1061/9780784481547.005>

[3] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2024/01/broward-tent>

[4] [https://www.mainstreetdailynews.com/news/university-ave-accidents-continue-amid-upgrades\\_id\\_5624d154-4cbb-11ec-9f1e-f32567528270](https://www.mainstreetdailynews.com/news/university-ave-accidents-continue-amid-upgrades_id_5624d154-4cbb-11ec-9f1e-f32567528270)

[5] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2023/02/gainesville-receives-federal-funds-for-university-avenue-construction>

[6] <https://ufalert.ufl.edu/methods/>

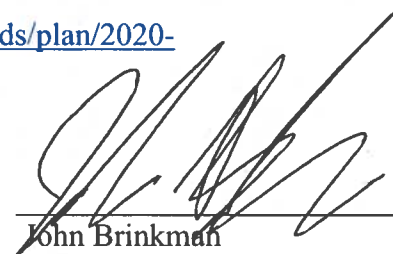
[7] [https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the\\_curb\\_cut\\_effect](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_curb_cut_effect)

[8] <https://adatile.com/consequences-violating-ada-compliance-rules-walkways/>

[9] <https://adatile.com/ada-non-compliance-what-happens-when-cities-or-businesses-do-not-comply/>

[10] [https://go-rts.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/June\\_23\\_-Ridership.pdf](https://go-rts.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/June_23_-Ridership.pdf)

[11] <https://facilities.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/plan/2020-2030/data/Transpo%20DandA%202020.pdf>

  
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John Brinkman  
Senate President

3/1/2024  
Date