

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1320

TITLE: Resolution for TAPS Revitalization – Volume I (Implementation of Parking Garage Sensors)

AUTHOR(S): Deputy Party Leader Max Banach

SPONSORS: Senator Sarah Hoffer, Senator Allan Rivera Jaramillo, Senator Elizabeth Insuasti, Senator Daniel Permane, Senator Anna Huber, President of Florida Students for the Exploration and Development of Space Ana Alvarez, Pakistani Student Association Secretary Taimoor Nawaz, Senator Isha Khan, Senator Anghelo Gangano, Senator Arturo Zárrate, Senator Antonio Hendricks, Senator Zach Arzt, Senator Anjali Natarajan, Senator Conor Ruffin, Senator Krystal Felix, Senator Ammar Sakrani, Senator Gabriela Prieto, Senator Laura Jane Bryan, Senator Ella Furman, Senator Maximo Toledo, Senator Coe Leavengood, Transportation Caucus Vice-Chair Hunter Monson

WHEREAS, the University of Florida (UF) is committed to providing a safe and efficient transportation system for its students, faculty, and staff [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the current parking situation on campus presents significant challenges for students and visitors, including limited parking availability, difficulty in locating vacant parking spaces, and increased traffic congestion within parking facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) recognizes the ratio of decal-only parking spaces per main campus total population “has dipped below [the target of] 0.30 and parking complaints have noticeably increased” [1]; and,

WHEREAS, polling, conducted in 2024, indicates 44% of respondents noted that “parking and transportation” is the biggest issue faced by students on and around campus [2]; and,

WHEREAS, current parking efficiency is key given the estimated increase in parking garage demand “over the next 10-years is approximately 1,372 spaces” alongside a 10-year loss in parking supply of 5,980 spaces when not factoring in new space construction [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the implementation of parking garage sensors has the potential to significantly enhance parking management by providing real-time data on parking availability, thereby reducing the time spent searching for parking spaces, minimizing traffic congestion, and improving the overall user experience; and,

WHEREAS, TAPS most recent Transportation & Parking Strategic Plan, dated 2018, makes no mention of the word “sensor” [1]; and,

WHEREAS, TAPS most recent Existing Conditions Memorandum to the Transport & Parking Strategic Plan, dated 2018, conducted benchmarking of numerous peer institutions, such as

Florida State University, University of Arizona, and University of Michigan, that have successfully deployed parking garage capacity sensors as part of a space occupancy counting system [3]; and,

WHEREAS, TAPS most recent Existing Conditions Memorandum to the Transport & Parking Strategic Plan makes note of an in-state peer, the University of South Florida, that does not have a sensor capacity management system but is “in the process of researching a variety of technologies (sensors, loops, cameras, etc.) for a guidance and utilization management application” [3]; and,

WHEREAS, UF’s newest Parking Garage 14 is one of the only garage with a space occupancy counting system, displayed on a LED panel outside the space, even though these systems can be retrofitted into existing garages; and,

WHEREAS, integrating parking garage sensor data into a user-friendly mobile application accessible to students and visitors can further enhance the effectiveness of UF’s parking management system, providing users with real-time information on parking availability and facilitating efficient navigation within parking facilities; and,

WHEREAS, investing in smart parking technologies aligns with UF's Core Value of Innovation while contributing to the university's Climate Action Plan goal of reducing carbon emissions in alignment with UF’s Core Value of Stewardship [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the installation of parking garage sensors represents a proactive and forward-thinking approach to addressing the parking challenges faced by the UF community, reinforcing the TAPS Strategic Plan recognition that “[emerging] technologies provide the opportunity to increase transportation efficiencies and continue to mature the University of Florida’s reputation of preeminence” [1]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate recognizes the urgent need for action to improve parking management on campus and hereby advocates for the expeditious implementation of parking garage capacity sensors across all on-campus parking facilities; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate calls on TAPS and UF Administration to allocate necessary resources and funding for the design, procurement, and installation of parking garage capacity sensors in all on-campus parking facilities; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate calls upon UF Administration to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, and parking management experts in the UF Transportation Institute, throughout the planning,

implementation, and integration phases of the parking garage sensor project to ensure the successful deployment and operation of the parking management system; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate calls upon TAPS and UF Administration to develop and deploy, or otherwise integrate within, a user-friendly mobile application that provides real-time information on parking availability within on-campus parking facilities, utilizing data collected from parking garage capacity sensors; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate suggests the implementation of the novel capacity feature within the current interactive TAPS map alongside navigation assistance and user feedback mechanisms; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate calls upon UF Administration to ensure the accessibility and usability of the mobile application for all members of the UF community, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors, through compatibility with various mobile devices and operating systems, as well as compliance with accessibility standards and guidelines; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate urges UF Administration to provide regular progress updates and reports to the UF community on the status of the parking garage sensor project, including updates on implementation timelines, budget allocations, and key milestones achieved.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Interim Provost J. Scott Angle, Vice President for Business Affairs and Economic Development Curtis Reynolds, Interim Director of Transportation and Parking Services Lynda Reinhart, and Director of Planning Linda Dixon

[1]<https://taps.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/TransportationStrategicPlan.pdf>

[2]<https://www.instagram.com/p/C3gC-ZwuWvy/>

[3]https://facilities.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/plan/2020-2030/technicalreports/08%202018_UF%20TPSP_Existing%20Conditions%20Report_Final.pdf

[4]<https://www.ufl.edu/about/core-values/#el-818291fd>