

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1322

TITLE: Resolution for TAPS Revitalization – Volume III (Disability Infrastructure Accessibility)

AUTHOR(S): Deputy Minority Party Leader Max Banach

SPONSOR(S): 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, UF is committed “to providing everyone a welcoming and accessible campus. UF strives to ensure individuals with disabilities enjoy reasonable access to services and resources required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)” [2]; and,

WHEREAS over 7,000 gators with disabilities currently work with the UF Disability Resource Center to remove access barriers and “promote an inclusive campus community for all” [3]; and,

WHEREAS, accessible transportation infrastructure is an essential component of ensuring equal access and mobility for individuals with disabilities, allowing them to navigate the campus safely, independently, and with dignity; and,

WHEREAS, disabled individuals face unique challenges and barriers related to transportation and parking, including inadequate signage, inaccessible pathways, and absence of tactile markers for individuals with visual impairments; and,

WHEREAS, truncated domes and detectable warning pavers, a type of tactile paving, serve to “[help] the visually impaired detect when they are about to leave the sidewalk and enter the street” and, when used properly, “allow for a more accessible and safe street layout” [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Access Board is currently finalizing guidelines under the ADA Accessibility Standards to include requirements for detectable warnings at “curb ramps and blended transitions at street crossings” [5]; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Access Board ADA standard 705.1.3 requires detectable warnings to “contrast visually with adjacent walking surfaces either light-on-dark, or dark-on-light” [6]; and,

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WHEREAS, the author appreciates the collaborative efforts of both UF Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) and UF Facilities to generate a list of spaces on-campus in need of updating; and,

WHEREAS, the following non-exhaustive list has been identified as areas currently lacking a street-crossing tactile paving tile: the shared use path along Mowry Road, the entrance of the New Engineering Building along Center Dr, the entrance to the Apiculture Center along Natural Area Dr, both crosswalks crossing Bledsoe Dr, the entrance to the Baughman Center along Museum Dr, the crosswalk adjacent to the entrance to Beta Theta Pi along Fraternity Dr, the intersection of Village Dr and W Fraternity Dr, the entrance to Delta Sigma Phi along Fraternity Dr, the intersection of Fraternity Dr and Woodlawn Dr, the crosswalk along the side entrance to Lambda Chi Alpha along Woodlawn Dr, the Keys Complex front and side parking lot entrances on Woodlawn Dr and Stadium Rd, the intersection of Woodlawn Dr and Stadium Rd, the Tolbert Hall parking lot entrance on Stadium Rd, the crosswalk across Gale Lemerand Rd near the O'Connell Center parking lot, the entrance to the Weimer Hall service lot along Stadium Rd, the entrance to Florida Gym Service Dr, all three entrances to the Infirmary parking lot along Stadium Rd and Fletcher Dr, the entrance to the Hub West service lot along Stadium Rd, the intersection of Stadium Rd and Fletcher Dr, the crosswalk across Fletcher Dr to Racquet Club Dining Center, the intersection of East West Rd and Fletcher Dr, both crosswalks at the parking lot entrances on the south-end intersection of Fletcher Dr and University Ave, the north-most crosswalk connecting Buckman Hall and the Chemistry Lab Building on Buckman Dr, the intersection of Union Rd and Buckman Dr, the intersection of Union Rd and Newell Dr, the south exit of the loop about the Aquatic Food Products Pilot Plant, the intersection of McCarty Dr and Newell Dr, the exit of the McCarty parking lot on Newell Dr, the intersection of Museum Rd and Broward Dr, the eastern entrance to the Jennings Hall parking lot along Museum Rd, the entrance to the UFPD Public Safety Building parking lot along Newell Dr, the entrance to Bartram Hall on Newell Dr, the entrance to Environmental Health & Safety on Newell Dr, the crosswalk connecting the McKnight Brain Institute and Medical Education Building on Newell Dr, both the crosswalks connecting the McKnight Brain Institute and Biomedical Research Pavilion on Newell Dr, the entrance to the Frazier Rogers Hall parking lot on Center Dr, the intersection of Museum Rd and Center Dr, the entrance to the Water Reclamation Facility parking lot on Gale Lemerand Dr, the intersection of Parking Garages II/III and Mowry Rd, the crosswalk connecting the Cancer/Genetics Research Complex and UF Band Practice Field on Mowry Rd, the intersection of the Cancer/Genetics Research Complex parking lot entrance and Mowry Rd, both entrances to the University Gardens parking lot on Museum Rd, the crosswalk connecting the Fraternity Row parking lot and Lake Alice Field on Museum Rd, the intersection

of Museum Rd and Woodlawn Dr, and the intersection of Museum Rd and Hume West Service Dr; and,

WHEREAS, the following non-exhaustive list has been identified as areas with a street-crossing tactile paving tile that does not contrast with the underlying walking surface: the entrance to the Florida Museum along Hull Rd, the entrance to the Village Dr parking lot adjacent to Pi Beta Phi, the crosswalk across Village Dr to the President's House, the entrance to the Murphree Hall Gold/Silver lot on Buckman Dr, the intersection of Newell Dr and S Newell Dr, and the intersection of Gale Lemerand Dr and Mowry Rd; and,

WHEREAS, the following non-exhaustive list has been identified as areas that previously had a street-crossing tactile paving tile, but has since been broken and is in need of replacement: the entrance to the Woodlawn Dr parking lot adjacent to Delta Sigma Phi, the intersection of Newell Dr and Stadium Rd, the intersection of Sabal Palm Dr and Mowry Rd, the intersection of Date Palm Dr and Mowry Rd, and the intersection of Museum Rd and Simpson Hall Service Dr; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate recognizes the urgent need for action to address these challenges and improve disability infrastructure related to transportation and parking on campus, thereby enhancing accessibility and inclusivity for individuals with disabilities; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate calls for the rapid reconstruction or installation of tactile paving in all areas identified to not be meeting proposed ADA Standards [5]; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate supports the implementation of curb cuts, ramps, and other accessibility features to ensure barrier-free access to sidewalks, crosswalks, and pedestrian pathways for individuals with mobility impairments; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate calls for TAPS to work in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and DRC's Disability Ambassadors to raise awareness, promote inclusivity, and solicit feedback on disability infrastructure initiatives; 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 Disability Accessibility experts, throughout the planning, implementation, and integration phases of the disability infrastructure enhancement project to ensure the successful deployment and operation thereof; 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 Student Senate and the UF community on the status of the disability infrastructure enhancement plan, including updates on implementation timelines, budget allocations, and key milestones achieved.

Proviso: Recognizing the fluid status of on-campus construction and the different property rights on and near Greek houses, the ability of UF Facilities to update some spaces in the aforementioned non-exhaustive lists is subject to change. 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, Facilities Services Senior Director of Operations Gregg Clarke, Facilities Services Maintenance Superintendent Matthew Engel, and Disability Resource Center Director Jenna Gonzalez

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

[2] <https://accessibility.ufl.edu/>

[3] <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

[4] <https://www.wptv.com/simplemost/sidewalk-bumps>

[5] <https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/other/dw-update.html#proposed-requirements-for-detectable-warnings>

[6] <https://www.access-board.gov/ada/#ada-705>



4/25/24

Monish Vijayaraghavan
Senate President

Date