

Student Senate

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STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1564

TITLE: Pedestrian Safety Awareness Act Volume One – Resolution Calling for the Creation of SG Bike and E-Scooter Safety Videos

AUTHOR(S): Senator Nathaniel Pelton

SPONSOR(S): Senator Sarah Hoffer, Senator Maximo Toledo, Senator Meagan Lamey, Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Senator Fahim Islam, Deputy Minority Party Leader Max Banach

WHEREAS, the University of Florida, in its Campus Master Plan 2020-2030, outlined the results of its Transportation Data and Analysis Technical Report from 2010, in which the university found a daily total of 6,529 bicycle and 3,996 scooter counts at intersections across the campus, showcasing the large population of students who use bikes and e-scooters as a means of transportation [1]; and

WHEREAS, the 2020-2030 UF Campus Master Plan outlines an additional 19,403 daily pedestrian traffic count, further indicating the frequency of traffic across campus and potential risk of collisions [1]; and,

WHEREAS, bike and e-scooter accidents are a significant cause of injuries among UF students, as the 2018 Transportation and Parking Strategic Plan indicated 202 crashes involving bicyclists, scooterists, and/or pedestrians from 2012-2017 across the UF campus community, with 49 on-campus accidents involving bicycles, and 43 on-campus accidents involving a scooter [2]; and,

WHEREAS, 63.8% of the 95 respondents in the University of Florida Student Senate's Spring 2024 Transportation Survey indicated they were somewhat unsatisfied or unsatisfied "with the use of bikes, scooters, and other forms of personal transportation in high traffic pedestrian areas on campus (e.g. Turlington Plaza)[;]" [3]; and,

WHEREAS, as part of the University of Florida Student Government's mission to "tirelessly advocat[e] on behalf of the student body, enhanc[e] the entire student experience and promot[e] the image of the university and its students by [...] selflessly serving the university and beyond[,]" the UF Student Government has a responsibility to promote the safety and well-being of all UF students [4]; and

WHEREAS, the creation of Student Government bike and e-scooter safety videos would provide students with valuable information on how to safely operate these vehicles; and

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WHEREAS, the publication of these videos across all Student Government social media platforms would ensure that they reach a wide audience of students; now,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate endorses the creation of Student Government bike and e-scooter safety videos to be published across all Student Government social media platforms.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recommends these videos include information on how to properly operate a bike or escooter, the importance of wearing a helmet, the rules and regulations governing the use of bikes and e-scooters on campus and in high-pedestrian areas, and how to avoid common accidents and injuries.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate calls upon the Student Government Executive Branch to collaborate with the University Police Department and the Department of Transportation and Parking Services to develop these videos.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida Student Body President John Brinkman.

Monish Vijayaraghavan

Senate President

Date

^[1] https://facilities.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/plan/2020-2030/data/Transpo%20DandA%202020.pdf

^[2]https://taps.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/TransportationStrategicPlan.pdf

^[3]https://www.instagram.com/p/C5WAPXkO25G/?img_index=1

^[4]https://sg.ufl.edu/about/