

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1057

TITLE: Resolution for Facilities of the Future – Volume III (Scooter Signage)

AUTHOR(S): Change Caucus Leader Max Banach

SPONSORS:

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 safety and efficiency of pedestrian traffic on the University of Florida campus is of paramount importance; and,

WHEREAS, motorized scooter-based transportation is not a safe or sustainable alternative to biking given “scooters were involved in 15 percent of severe crashes, and 88% of those scooter crashes [in 2017] were severe, the highest percentage of any mode type” [1]; and,

WHEREAS, motorized “scooters with a two-stroke engine lack the emission controls of car engines, making the amount of smog-forming emissions produced by scooters greater than that of most cars” [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the aforementioned motorized scooter safety and pollution concerns have resulted in “at least one UF department [recommending] two-stroke engine models be banned from the UF campus by 2025” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, UF’s Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) has entered into a collaborative effort with the City of Gainesville’s Micromobility Program to “deploy a fleet of electric scooters for rent throughout the City and on campus” [3]; and,

WHEREAS, electric scooters “are the most common form of micromobility in the nation” with “the number of e-scooters increased by 13% in 2023” [4]; and,

WHEREAS, with the rise of e-scooter riders, the number of e-scooter-related injuries has risen with “around 60,000 scooter injuries [in America] in 2024 alone,” but “Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Public Affairs Officer Patrick Riordan said these injuries can often be prevented by riders” by “only [riding] in permitted lanes” [4]; and,

WHEREAS, UF student’s unfamiliarity with, and novelty of, electric scooters has led to preventable injuries as “accidents with cars can happen if people decide to ride on the road, and people can be hit on the sidewalk because scooters lack bells” [5]; and,

WHEREAS, electric scooter usage at UF “is restricted to sidewalks and bike lanes, and users must keep a 5-foot distance between themselves and pedestrians,” yet many riders remain unaware of these regulations, contributing to unnecessary safety risks [6]; and,

WHEREAS, UPD has stated that it “isn’t making any special accommodations or changes with the arrival of scooters on campus,” potentially leaving a gap in awareness and regulation enforcement [6]; and,

WHEREAS, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) provides guidelines for the design and application of traffic control devices, including signage for bicycle lanes, for traffic control for bicycle facilities (MUTCD, Part 9) [7]; and,

WHEREAS, investing in high-quality, durable signage can reduce long-term maintenance costs and ensure the campus remains welcoming and navigable for years to come; and,

WHEREAS, clearly posted signage encouraging scooter riders to utilize bike lanes rather than sidewalks would promote safer micromobility practices, reduce pedestrian congestion, and help mitigate scooter-related injuries; and,

WHEREAS, improved bike signage has been successfully implemented in other UF settings to better integrate micromobility devices while enhancing pedestrian safety and traffic flow; and,

WHEREAS, the MUTCD does not explicitly prohibit the adaptation of Bicycle signs for scooter traffic, allowing flexibility in their application for enhancing scooter safety; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages UF Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) to design and install clear signage at key campus locations, informing electric scooter riders of their responsibility to use bike lanes whenever available, rather than sidewalks.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate supports stakeholder input in the signage design and placement process, including collaboration with UF Facilities, City of Gainesville’s Micromobility Program, and the UF Police Department (UPD) to maximize effectiveness.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate encourages UF Facilities, TAPS, UPD and relevant UF departments to launch an educational campaign alongside signage implementation to raise awareness about safe e-scooter riding practices and proper lane usage.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate requests periodic updates from UF administration on the implementation progress, effectiveness, and any

necessary adjustments to the scooter lane signage initiative to ensure continued success in enhancing campus transportation safety.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate recognizes this initiative be recognized as part of the larger "Facilities of the Future" plan, aiming to modernize and improve the infrastructure and facilities of the University of Florida for the benefit of current and future students.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Interim Vice President for Business Affairs Brandi Renton, Senior Director of Transportation and Parking Services William MacDonald, Director of Planning Linda Dixon, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Services Mark Helms, City of Gainesville Director of Transportation Jesus Gomez, UPD Chief Bart Knowles, WUFT reporter Alex Land, Gainesville Sun reporter Andy Fillmore, Public Health Major Caleb Curtis, and Director of the Bachelor of Public Health program Brittney Dixon-Daniel.

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

[2] <https://www.gainesville.com/story/lifestyle/magazine/2019/02/02/sweet-rides-scooters-and-safety/6132759007/>

[3] <https://taps.ufl.edu/alternative-transportation/micromobility/>

[4] <https://www.wuft.org/public-safety/2024-02-29/electric-scooter-injuries-on-the-rise-nationally>

[5] <https://phhp.ufl.edu/2024/11/07/from-paradise-to-concrete-the-importance-of-electric-scooter-safety/>

[6] <https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/local/2021/06/07/gainesville-uf-leaders-unveil-long-awaited-dockless-e-scooters-veo-bird-spin/7586102002/>

[7] https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/11th_Edition/mutcd11thedition.pdf