

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1059

TITLE: Resolution for Facilities of the Future – Volume V - Covered Bike Racks

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, Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) Strategic Plan, dated 2018, recognizes “[bicycle] infrastructure . . . is an important part of building a welcoming, accessible and equitable campus” [1]; and,

WHEREAS, as of Fall 2009, bicycle activity accounts for 21.82% of on-campus movement “within and just outside the main UF campus” [9]; and,

WHEREAS, the presence of accessible, well-maintained bike racks encourages more students, faculty, and staff to use bicycles, reducing vehicle congestion on campus and promoting sustainability [2]; and,

WHEREAS, currently, a large percentage of UF’s bike racks are exposed to the elements, leading to rust and damage to bicycle components [3]; and,

WHEREAS, covered bike racks provide protection from the weather, reducing wear and tear on bicycles and increasing their longevity [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Gainesville has received between 49 and 66 inches of rain over the past five years [4]; and,

WHEREAS, covered bike racks provide shade and protection from extreme heat, reducing heat-related discomfort and health risks such as heat exhaustion and dehydration for students waiting for transit or using bikes; and,

WHEREAS, covered bike racks contribute to safety by ensuring pedestrian dryness prior to boarding and bikes are kept dry when not in use, reducing the risk of slipping for both cyclists and pedestrians on wet surfaces [5]; and,

WHEREAS, covered bike racks already exist near Parking Garage 5, serving as a successful example of their utility on campus [7]; and,

WHEREAS, covered bike racks improve user satisfaction by providing “better and more secure parking options” and protect against bike theft [8]; and,

WHEREAS, covered bike racks reduce long-term maintenance costs by preventing exposure-related wear and tear, reducing the frequency of bike replacements and infrastructure repairs for UF facilities; and,

WHEREAS, UF student polling, conducted in 2024, indicates 44% of respondents noted that “parking and transportation” is the biggest issue faced by students on and around campus [10]; and,

WHEREAS, TAPS leadership has expressed interest in the potential use of Traffic Court funds for the purposes of these projects considering their TAPS nature; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages UF Administration work in conjunction with TAPS to initiate a project to design and implement covered bike racks across the University of Florida campus.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate calls for covered bike racks to be included in UF’s long-term infrastructure planning, including the Campus Master Plan.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate supports stakeholder feedback in the design process through communication with students, faculty, staff, and relevant university departments to ensure the covered bike racks meet the needs of the campus community.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate requests the Administration to provide regular updates on the progress of this project, including timelines, design drafts, and implementation plans.

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 Senior Director of Transportation and Parking Services William MacDonald, Director of Planning Linda Dixon, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Services Mark Helms, and UPD Chief Bart Knowles.

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

[2] <https://www.wabashvalley.com/blog/benefits-of-bike-racks-at-schools-and-colleges/?srsltid=AfmBOoq8BadnN3NKWVI4MsMcYsIRS9eM9SuGN5al8IEJAPZTuqXS2pVb>

[3] <https://roadbikebasics.com/leave-bike-in-rain/>

- [4] <https://climatecenter.fsu.edu/products-services/data/precipitation/gainesville>
- [5] <https://classic-arch.com/articles/bike-racks-contributing-to-a-sustainable-and-safe-cycling-infrastructure/>
- [6] <https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SSB-2024-1517-RESOLUTION-ADDRESSING-BUS-STOP-SEATING-AROUND-CAMPUS.pdf>
- [7] <https://maps.app.goo.gl/xckicmLZhHBSTWQM7>
- [8] <https://www.parknplaydesign.com/post/bike-rack-in-your-park-design>
- [9] <https://facilities.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/plan/2020-2030/data/Transpo%20DandA%202020.pdf>
- [10] <https://www.instagram.com/p/C3gC-ZwuWvy/>