

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1060

TITLE: Resolution for Facilities of the Future – Volume VI (Raised Crosswalks)

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, UF recently renewed its commitment to the safety and efficiency of pedestrian traffic on campus [2]; and,

WHEREAS, UF in collaboration with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has constructed “raised crosswalks near Northwest 14th Street and Gale Lemerand Drive” to “add pedestrian mobility with additional spots for safely crossing University Avenue” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, past raised crosswalk projects such as the one connecting the Hub and Newell Hall were funded at least in part utilizing traffic court funds [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the intersection along Hull Road leading from the Commuter Parking Lot sidewalk to Southwest Recreation Center is a high-traffic area frequently used by students, faculty, and staff commuting to campus facilities, including UF’s largest recreational facility, Southwest Recreation Center [4]; and,

WHEREAS, existing pedestrian crossings along Hull Road in this area lack sufficient traffic-calming infrastructure apart from a toggleable pedestrian crosswalk sign, leading to high vehicle speeds and limited driver awareness of crossing pedestrians when not paying attention to the sign, particularly during peak class transition hours and evening hours; and,

WHEREAS, raised crosswalks have been proven to enhance pedestrian safety by increasing visibility, encouraging vehicles to slow down, and reducing pedestrian-related collisions in high-traffic zones by up to 40% [5]; and,

WHEREAS, UF students have expressed concerns to Student Government representatives regarding vehicle speed and pedestrian safety at this crossing; and,

WHEREAS, the installation of a raised crosswalk at this location would provide a clear, designated pedestrian right-of-way, reducing confusion and improving accessibility for all campus community members; and,

WHEREAS, raised crosswalks contribute to ADA compliance, as they provide a level surface for wheelchair users, cyclists, and individuals with mobility impairments, reducing the need to navigate uneven road conditions; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate formally supports the immediate planning and installation of a raised crosswalk at the commuter parking lot sidewalk along Hull Road leading to Southwest Recreation Center.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate encourages Transportation & Parking Services (TAPS), UF Facilities Services, and UF Administration to collaborate in evaluating and implementing this safety measure in a timely manner.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate encourages UF to incorporate additional pedestrian safety features, such as improved lighting, signage, and pavement markings, in conjunction with the raised crosswalk to further enhance safety.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate requests TAPS and UF Administration to provide a project timeline, cost estimate, and implementation strategy for this infrastructure improvement to ensure transparency and accountability.

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: The author of this bill would like to recognize Engineering Senator Emeritus Fahim Islam for aiding in the creation of this bill.

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, City of Gainesville Director of Transportation Jesus Gomez, and UPD Chief Bart Knowles.

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

[2] <https://news.ufl.edu/2023/08/uf-fdot-traffic-pedestrian-safety/>

[3] <https://maps.app.goo.gl/nMPAcsQgnAchxNN58>

[4] <https://maps.app.goo.gl/JAK1wptxD6XTV38c7>

[5] <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures/crosswalk-visibility-enhancements>