



Student Senate

3000 J. Wayne Reitz Union
PO Box 118505
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-392-1665

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1179

TITLE: Resolution in Support of Restored RTS Funding

AUTHOR(S): Change Caucus Leader Andrew Larsen, Senator Lucas Nadeau

SPONSOR(S): Senate President Julia Seifer, Senate President Pro Tempore Aaron Rubaii, Sunrise Movement Gainesville President Ana Ferreira, Eco-Gator UF President Cecelia Duncan, Chronically Outside UF President Anelise Bullard, UF Green Building President Ashley Huebner, Unlitter UF President Grace MacEwan, UF Grebe Audubon Campus Chapter President Jackson Martin, Surfrider Foundation UF President Faith McGuire, Climate Action Gator President Miranda Ramos, Environmental Science Alliance President Eliza Sperry

WHEREAS, almost all UF students pay a Transportation Access fee of \$9.44 per credit hour [1]; and,

WHEREAS, student tuition dollars collected through the Transportation Access fee have been used to support Gainesville's Regional Transit System (RTS) since 1998, granting UF students unlimited ride access on the bus system [2]; and,

WHEREAS, for nearly three decades, students have used their access to RTS to travel between campus, housing, employment, and the wider Gainesville community; and,

WHEREAS, "the University of Florida is reallocating some of it's resources toward campus-specific transit options like the Campus Connector shuttle service." In doing so, funding toward Gainesville's RTS is reduced by approximately 20%, representing a 2.9 million dollar cut in funding for the 2025 fiscal year [3] [4][5]; and,

WHEREAS, the Transportation Access fee has remained constant despite students receiving reduced service as a result of the RTS funding decrease; and,

WHEREAS, students have reported decreased frequency of buses, overcrowding of buses, stops being skipped due to full buses, and increased wait time at bus stops as a product of the reduced funding and bus route realignment [4] [6]; and,

WHEREAS, students report that these complications have caused students to resort to inferior options, such as paying for ride services, arriving to classes late, or entirely missing classes [6]; and,

WHEREAS, the Campus Connector, an alternative form of transportation funded by the Transportation Access fee, only circulates campus and therefore does not address the needs of students to travel between campus and off-campus housing [7]; and,

WHEREAS, student organizations such as the Save RTS Coalition have organized student action in response to the funding cuts, including the creation of a petition with over 600 signatures [8]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the vital role the Regional Transit System plays in transporting students between campus, housing, and around the community; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the transportation crisis students are facing because of UF's reduced funding to RTS; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate strongly urges the University of Florida Administration to restore funding of RTS using Transportation Access fees.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Student Body President Blake Cox.

[1] <https://cfo.ufl.edu/student-financial-resources/current-and-former-students/2025-26-academic-year-tuition-and-fees/>

[2] https://www.gainesvillefl.gov/files/assets/public/v/2/transportation/rts-uf-history_funding_ridership_source-rts-february-2024.pdf

[3] <https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/local/2025/06/09/changes-to-gainesville-floridas-rts-bus-service-to-begin-june-30/84115688007/>

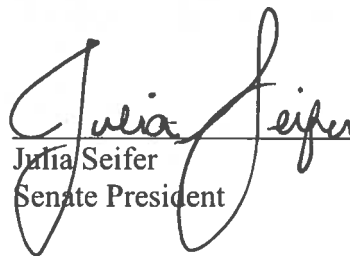
[4] <https://taps.ufl.edu/bus-route-changes/>

[5] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2025/06/latest-gainesville-regional-transit-system-cuts-leave-community-disappointed>

[6] https://www.reddit.com/r/ufl/comments/1n04mw5/ufs_defunding_of_rts_in_action/

[7] <https://taps.ufl.edu/alternative-transportation/campus-connector/>

[8] https://www.change.org/p/help-save-rts?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=mobileNativeShare&utm_campaign=share_petition&recruited_by_id=2c0703e0-853a-11f0-be1d-6dde823d91a4


Julia Seifer
Senate President

9/10/25
Date