

# Infrastructure Council Minutes

## October 6, 2021

10:00 a.m.

160 Pugh\*

\*if needed via: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96563752875?pwd=NGczTEdKMk9HdGtGa1ZSbFpCY211dz09>

**Present:** Keith Rambo, Gail Hansen, Nancy Clark, Alex Wong, Emily Hind, Walter O’Dell, Amanda Phalin, Matt Williams, Yousong Ding, Laurie Bialosky, and Ray Issa.

### 1. Call to Order – Keith Rambo, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Infrastructure Council Chair Keith Rambo.

### 2. Approval of September 8, 2021 Minutes

- The minutes were approved.

### 3. Chair’s Report

- Council is interested in hearing updates from UF Housing pertaining to COVID quarantining on campus.

### 4. High Hood Vehicles – Emily Hind, Associate Professor of Spanish

- Professor Hind shared concerns about roadways in and around the campus community where bicyclists and pedestrians are being placed at risk because of high hood vehicles which severely limits driver-pedestrian visibility and pose a danger. Attention must be given to the types of vehicles purchased for UF business, including how they are marked and ascertaining how essential high hood vehicles are. Is UF truck purchase information available?
- Crosswalks in 40 mph speed zones are also of great concern. 40 mph is an unsurvivable speed in the event of a collision.
- This is an especially difficult situation for public transit-dependent individuals who cannot afford their own vehicles and those who must navigate the roadways on foot or by bicycle.
- Many purposely avoid biking and walking on the roadways because of such dangers.
- A lower sedan style car, as opposed to very large trucks with large grills, is safer and can better protect bikers, those in wheelchairs, children, and children in strollers.
- Many cars do not yield at the yellow flashing crosswalk light on NW 16 Avenue.
- Automated speed enforcement is illegal in Florida. Many drivers routinely drive 50-55 mph in 35 mph speed zones.
- New University Avenue speed humps and planned 25 mph zones will increase safety. FDOT has not reduced the speed in areas such as 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

- Council discussed what actions UF can take in addressing off campus speed limits. UF influence over roadway decision declines the further away the roadways are from campus.
- Worrisome problems which exist at the 16<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> crossings were discussed.
- Protected bike lanes were discussed but it is agreed that there is still a need to establish safe speed zones.
- Council discussed the need for campus members to also take responsibility by not being distracted by cell phone viewing or headphones when walking and cycling.
- The pedestrian safety advocacy group 'Not One More' held a round table discussion this past week to address the spike in pedestrian accidents, including the deaths of three UF students within one year. At this event, Gainesville Mayor Poe discussed the need to address the increase in Alachua County pedestrian crashes and deaths.
- Minimalization and rationalization are allowing unacceptable behaviors to continue. Council discussed a useful framing in addressing such issues. UF police, administration, engineers, and city governments collaborate to make, for example, bus route decisions so such cooperation can also exist when addressing on and off campus traffic issues, which have the same elements of traffic flow and the same community and campus members; action is needed and can be taken.
- Current statistics are unacceptable. There is an ethical responsibility to address these matters and UF is a resource for needed expertise.
- Chair Rambo invited Professor Hind to participate in the upcoming Parking and Transportation Committee (PATC) Advisory Committee meeting. A sub-committee will address these items of concern with actionable items. The sense of urgency in addressing these issues was reiterated.

## **5. Reporting of Contributing Committees and Administrative Liaisons:**

- Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee (J) -- Gail Hansen
  - A number of projects were approved at the last meeting.
  - The residential undergraduate complex removed several trees to accommodate a sidewalk. Mitigation for this project is 67 new trees.
  - The committee approved the removal of one tree and landscaping at the SW Recreation Center building.
  - The committee discussed the new roundabout by Radio Road and addressing the lakehouse drainage problem by adding a new basin to ease flooding.
  - Minor changes to some hardscape and to bike racks are being made in accommodating the Campus Master Plan.
  - A conservation management model was discussed and Office of Sustainability Director Matt Williams shared with council that they're evaluating a replicable model to address 30

conservation areas around campus. The Office is working with the Facility Services Grounds Department and other campus groups to remove invasive plants in McCarty Woods. It is also examining re-doing campus conservation management plans, which are about 10 years old, and will discuss it at the Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee meeting next week.

- Parking and Transportation Committee (J) -- Keith Rambo
  - Green decal parking spaces are used by all decals above green, particularly in the O'Connell Center. The committee would like to explore the feasibility of having dedicated green parking spaces. Options to assign parking spaces to single decal colors (rather than the current tiered system where blue decals can park in green spaces, etc.), and charging differently for decals may be considered. Chair Rambo has contacted Scott Fox, Director of Transportation and Parking Services, for feedback.
- Sustainability Committee (J) -- Matt Williams
  - The committee discussed the agenda for the academic year. Environmental, social, and government related issues, including sustainable investing, were discussed. Input will be received from UF Law Professor Andrew Winden, whose expertise is in corporate governance and entrepreneurship, capital markets and securities regulation, climate change and sustainability and business transactions.
  - The Sustainability Office is part of Facilities Services and a list of official projects and initiatives, as well as where they are located, can be viewed at: .  
<https://www.facilitieservices.ufl.edu/information/sustainability/> and  
<https://sustainable.ufl.edu/campus-initiatives/>.
  - The Sustainability Office provided a '[Climate Considerations for the New UF Central Energy Plant \(CEP\)](#)' white paper that relayed that, upon operation, the new UF Central Energy Plant will reduce UF's overall carbon emissions by 25% but will still be the largest carbon emissions generator on campus. One key consideration is that UF needs a replacement for steam. Producing sources for this outside of natural gas is a challenge for everyone. The co-generation process was briefly discussed.
- University Information Technology Committee (S) - Raymond Issa
  - The committee's agenda for the upcoming academic year was discussed, including an Academic Policy Council request to provide a syllabi template in Canvas, which will be

discussed at the next meeting.

- An inquiry was made about the Broward area recreation center closing to accommodate space for the new undergraduate honors college residential hall. It has been established as a priority project.

- Student concern was expressed about the loss of many sports amenities, including the tennis courts and pool to accommodate upgraded housing. When this project was initially proposed, the Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee inquired if these amenities would be replaced. No additional information is available except that, in general, UF is moving these amenities to the west side of campus. The Norman Field area was also discussed in the past. Maguire Village is slated to be taken down and will be an area for recreation facilities as part of the Campus Master Plan. The nature and culture corner of campus will be largely be placed in the areas where the new sports facilities, including the new baseball and softball stadiums, and IFAS currently are.

## **6. Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.