

**The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin**

Sponsor(s): Samantha Fuchs, GSA Legislative Affairs Director
Stacia Cedillo, GSA Representative
Nolan Pitts, Undergraduate Mentee
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Resolution: G.R. 17 (F) 7 – In Support of Safety Resources for Bicyclists and Pedestrians on the University of Texas at Austin Campus

WHEREAS (1): The City of Austin is considered a bike-friendly community, earning the only gold status from the League of American Bicyclists in Texas in 2015.¹ Major roads leading to the University of Texas at Austin (UT) such as Guadalupe, Speedway, and San Jacinto have clearly delineated bike lanes or shared lane markings. However, on the UT campus, there are limited bike lanes and trails which allow for efficient and safe transport for bicyclists and pedestrians; and,

WHEREAS (2): According to the UT Austin Police Department (UTPD), most accidents occur when “a pedestrian steps in front of a bicyclist, or a bicyclist or motor vehicle fails to stop at a stop sign,” particularly due to a lack of attention on the path of the bicyclist or motor vehicle.² Since 2012, after the City of Austin Transportation Department constructed numerous new bike lanes, the number of bicycle accidents has decreased by nearly one-third³; and,

WHEREAS (3): Many institutions in Texas have produced high quality graphics to provide information to their bicyclists. Texas A&M University has an interactive bike map showing bike lanes, parking, and repair stations.⁴ Texas Tech has a minimalist infographic labeling bicycle parking and repair tool locations.⁵ Texas State University has an interactive map with marked bike trails.⁶ The UT Austin campus bike map consists only of six repair stations presented on a satellite image map⁷; and,

WHEREAS (4): Current resources for bicyclists such as campus requirements and safety tips are found on the BikeUT page under Parking and Transportation services, including the bicyclist map.⁸ Section IV

¹ LeBlanc, Pam. “Austin Gets Gold Status on List of Bicycle-Friendly Communities.” November 17, 2015.

FitCityfitness.blog.austin360.com/2015/11/16/austin-gets-gold-status-on-list-of-bicycle-friendly-communities/.

² Sullivan, Natalie. “Most bike collisions go unreported on campus.” *The Daily Texan*. October 10, 2014.

<http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2014/10/01/most-bike-collisions-go-unreported-on-campus>

³ Taha, Jenan. “Austin cyclist accidents steadily decreasing over five-year period.” *The Daily Texan*. July 20, 2017.

<http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2017/07/16/austin-cyclist-accidents-steadily-decreasing-over-five-year-period>

⁴ Bicycle Maps-Texas A&M University, transportmap.tamu.edu/parkingmap/bike.html.

⁵ State of Texas and Texas Tech University. “Transportation & Parking Services.” *Bicycling, Transportation & Parking Services*, [TTU, www.depts.ttu.edu/parking/InformationFor/Bicycling.php](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/parking/InformationFor/Bicycling.php).

⁶ “The Bike Cave.” *The Bike Cave, Bobcat Shuttle, Texas State University*, 11 Jan. 2016, www.shuttle.txstate.edu/bikecave.html.

⁷ “Maps for Bicyclists.” *Parking & Transportation, The University of Texas at Austin*, parking.utexas.edu/bike/maps-bicyclists.

⁸ “Safe Cycling.” *Parking & Transportation, The University of Texas at Austin*, parking.utexas.edu/bike/safe-cycling.

of Traffic Regulations states that bicyclists may ride on sidewalks that are designated bike lanes⁹, but the map provides no indication of which sidewalks are bike lanes. The website's additional safety services, like online traffic skills classes, are not well-promoted; and,

WHEREAS (5): The new Speedway Mall is meant to be a pedestrian-focused space with low-speed bike traffic¹⁰ but is currently congested with bicyclists and pedestrians at risk for collisions. Although there are suggested alternative biking routes, such as shared lanes on San Jacinto, those roads are not direct and they do not provide access to centrally located buildings on campus, such as the Gates Computer Science Complex; and,

WHEREAS (6): Rules of the road, such as intersection lights and stop signs, are enforced by University of Texas Police Department (UTPD), which seeks to further educate bicyclists about responsible riding.¹¹ Traffic regulations also apply to pedestrians, but are typically unenforced, such as in regards to yielding when crossing front of a bike path¹²; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT (1): The Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) calls upon UT Parking and Transportation Services to create an infographic campus map for resources such as bike parking, sidewalk lanes, road lanes, repair stations, and the Kickstand; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (2): More bike lanes be created on campus, such as by creating road markings on streets, delineated lanes to separate bikers and pedestrians on sidewalks, or completely new bike paths; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (3): The GSA calls upon UT Parking and Transportation Services and UTPD to continue working to inform UT Austin students of the laws regarding rights and responsibilities for safe practices at the intersection of pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicle drivers, including reporting all incidents, listing locations where riding on sidewalks is allowed, that bicyclists must follow all posted traffic signs, and that pedestrians should walk on sidewalks and avoid roads travelled by cyclists and cars; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (4): Speed limits and dismount and remount areas be visibly marked on shared sidewalks of bicyclists and pedestrians to ensure safety; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (5): Copies of this bill be sent to UT Parking and Transportation Services and UTPD.

⁹ Section IV.11. "Section IV: Traffic Regulations." *Parking & Transportation, The University of Texas at Austin*, <https://parking.utexas.edu/parking/rules/section-IV-traffic-regulations>

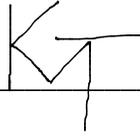
¹⁰ Speedway Mall Renovation. "Key Features," *The University of Texas at Austin*. 2017. <http://sites.utexas.edu/speedway/>

¹¹ Ritterbush, Reagen. UTPD warns bicyclists to follow rules of the road. *The Daily Texan*. October 12, 2017. <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2017/10/12/utpd-warns-bicyclists-to-follow-rules-of-the-road>

¹² Section IV.14-15. "Section IV: Traffic Regulations." *Parking & Transportation, The University of Texas at Austin*, <https://parking.utexas.edu/parking/rules/section-IV-traffic-regulations>

PASSED by the GSA General Assembly, November 8, 2017

Signature of the GSA President _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left, a diagonal line crossing it, and a horizontal line extending to the right, all resting on a horizontal baseline.