Dear Gainesville City Commissioner,

We are Students for the New Urbanism at UF, campus leaders for sustainable development. Thank you for taking the time to meet with our student body about transportation issues; we have prepared a few statements to give you our perspective of Gainesville's transportation strengths and weaknesses.

We are proud to be citizens of a city that holds bicycling in such high regard. As a whole, the expansion of bike boulevards, bike parking, and bike lanes throughout the city is very beneficial to our community, especially low income citizens and students. The expansion of bicycle parking in Midtown and Downtown would make these areas more accessible; currently there are less than optimal numbers of bike racks in these areas (especially Midtown). Please consider expanding or incentivising bike racks in these high-traffic areas.

The University has recognized the limited amount of parking available on campus, and has made adjustments to allow more people to access parts of campus by taking up less space. This is being done by converting just a few car parking spaces to parking for scooters. By converting just 3 parking spaces (which would serve 3-6 people on average) to scooter parking, 15-20 people are able to park and access a shop, restaurant, or public space. This would make sense in high-traffic areas such as Downtown, Midtown, and areas around campus where density is high and parking space is limited. Consider that students have embraced scooters more than ever before, and would be much more likely to take a trip downtown if they had designated parking for their scooter. Many of our students have chosen to forego a car for the cheaper, more convenient alternative. Providing accessible parking scooters is as simple as repainting lines on pavement. There are examples all over UF's campus; please consider encouraging the conversion of some parking spaces to scooter parking for a more inclusive and efficient transportation option.

Electric vehicles are becoming more prevalent; the proliferation of charging stations throughout Gainesville would encourage more people to consider electric vehicle use. Electric vehicles would pull electricity from our utility company instead of paying for gas that comes from outside of our local economy. They would help keep Gainesville's air clean, and help our community be more sustainable. Without the infrastructure in place, it is difficult to own an electric car without the fear of losing power. Consider working with GRU and GEAC to develop the infrastructure for electric vehicles.

As Gainesville develops, the expansion and diversification of transit options will be crucial for citizens to maintain their level of mobility. We ask that you please consider revisiting the streetcar study that was completed in the spring; streetcars are renowned for their effectiveness

and efficiency in connecting people and places. They are also known for their ability to attract growth and development; the proposed streetcar track would connect the UF campus to the Innovation Hub, and to Downtown. As these three places will take a central role in Gainesville's future, connecting them on a convenient, reliable system would benefit the community as a whole.

Parking downtown is currently an piecemeal system of free parking, limited time parking, metered parking, and garage parking. What is clear is that there is no shortage of parking: one of our SNU members reached out to the operator of the downtown parking garage who said that the garage is only full on game days - so why is it sometimes hard to find a spot downtown? We think that because there is such variety of parking costs, people will continue to search for free spots. Consider requiring metered parking for all high-traffic downtown parking spots. This will allow for the better control of parking availability because the meter's cost can be adjusted to find the optimal supply/demand price. If all spots are metered, less time will be spent looking for free spots, more time will be spent enjoying the downtown, Businesses will experience a higher turnover rate for customers, and there will be a higher utilization of the existing garages downtown. Please consider instituting metered parking for all highly used downtown parking spaces.

Please contact us about any of these topics, and thank you for your time.
Students for the New Urbanism at UF

Students for the New Urbanism If you have any questions about the topics we brought up, please contact us at snu.florida@gmail.com
Follow our facebook page *Students for the New Urbanism at UF*