

**SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION  
AND PARKING EFFORTS AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

## TAPS' SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT

Sustainability and the elimination of single-occupant vehicle (SOV) trips have been guiding principles for UF Transportation and Parking Services' efforts over the past twenty years and will continue to be a primary goal for our department moving forward.

TAPS offers a comprehensive menu of alternative transit programs for UF faculty, staff and students and is currently working to consolidate these options under the umbrella of a fully operational TDM plan to best serve the university community today and in the future. For additional information on our transit programs and services, please visit [www.taps.ufl.edu](http://www.taps.ufl.edu).

# MICROMOBILITY PILOT PROGRAM

In June 2021, the City of Gainesville launched a one-year micromobility pilot program designed to bring rental electric scooters to town and studying their impact.

TAPS and UF have partnered with the City in this effort to make the devices available on campus for students, faculty and staff, providing a new, sustainable solution for short trips and additional mobility.



## RTS EXPRESS ROUTES 150/151

In response to recommendations from UF's 2018 Transportation and Parking Strategic Plan, TAPS worked with RTS to implement a special "express" route connecting the Haile Plantation area with the UF campus and UF Health facilities in order to help increase faculty and staff bus ridership.



The new route 150 launched in Fall 2019 using RTS' smaller-size mobility shuttles rather than full-size buses and averaged more than 130 riders/day pre-COVID. The 150 has remained productive even as overall RTS ridership has dropped during the current pandemic and currently averages close to 400 riders per week. A second express route aimed at connecting the Duck Pond area with campus has been developed and designated as Route 151 but is currently on hold pending funding availability.

# DUKE ENERGY DIRECT EFFICIENCY PROGRAM



TAPS is currently working with Duke Energy on a project to replace all interior lighting in campus Parking Garages 2 and 5 with new energy-efficient LED bulbs.

This project is estimated to save the university thousands of dollars in electrical costs for the future and will be completed at no charge to UF through Duke's Direct Efficiency Program. The cost of the lighting replacement will be deferred and paid entirely out of the university's electricity savings over the next four years.

# INCREASING ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING ACCESS ON CAMPUS

TAPS has installed and maintains a total of twelve electric vehicle fast-charging stations across campus. However, our experience has shown that most EV owners who drive to campus don't need a full charge from one of these stations and can simply utilize a regular 110V AC outlet to top off their vehicle's battery.

For this reason, TAPS is working on plans to install additional outlets in campus parking garages as a simple, low-cost solution to increase our total EV charging infrastructure and make it easier for faculty, staff and students to utilize electric vehicles on campus.



# UF VANPOOL PROGRAM

TAPS is currently working with Enterprise's "Commute With Enterprise" division to develop and launch a vanpooling program for UF employees. The program, tentatively planned for launch in late 2022 or early 2023, will allow groups of 8-15 employees living 20 or more miles from campus to use Enterprise-provided vans for their daily commute.



Vanpooling helps to eliminate SOV trips for long-distance commuting and reduces emissions and traffic. The vans are owned, maintained and insured by Enterprise with no cost to UF. Each vanpool passenger pays a portion of the monthly cost for their van, which allows them to save money versus the cost of commuting and avoid daily wear and tear on their personal vehicles.

# CAMPUS CONNECTOR SHUTTLE SERVICE



TAPS launched our Campus Connector shuttle service in August 2019 to help increase faculty/staff mobility options as recommended by the Transportation and Parking Strategic Plan. The Connector is a free, walk-on shuttle service operating from 6:30 am – 5:30 pm, Monday – Friday with service every 15-20 minutes at each stop. It is available for faculty, staff, student and visitor use with no ID required to ride.



## RTS ELECTRIC BUSES

RTS' bus fleet currently includes eight total electric buses in operation – three of these buses are fully electric, and the remaining five use a hybrid electric powertrain. Another fully electric bus has been purchased and is under construction with deployment expected sometime in 2023.



# TOWER ROAD PARK AND RIDE

In early 2020, TAPS initiated discussions with campus planners and other potentially interested stakeholders to build a 100+ space park and ride lot on Tower Road, south of SW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The park and ride lot will become a primary pickup point for the heavily-used Route 150, allowing RTS to switch from shuttles to full-size buses and better meet increased demand. In addition, the lot would provide a parking opportunity for faculty and staff who live west of I-75 and would like to utilize RTS transit services for their daily commute to campus.

However, this construction is currently on hold due to funding issues created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

