Resolution in Support of Feasibility Study to Evaluate Solutions for Improved Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossings of South College Road in the Vicinity of the University of North Carolina Wilmington

WHEREAS, University students are more likely to utilize alternative forms of transportation, and Wilmington’s warm climate and flat topography are more conducive to these modes of travel; and

WHEREAS, Randall Parkway has bicycle lanes and sidewalks from Kerr Avenue to South College Road; and

WHEREAS, the Gary Shell Cross City Trail crosses South College Road at Randall Parkway and traverses the University of North Carolina Wilmington’s property; and

WHEREAS, a significant amount of housing is being added on the west side of South College Road, and marketed to UNCW students; and

WHEREAS, the South College Road intersection at Randall Parkway/Randall Drive includes eight (8) lanes of traffic, with turning lanes included, and vehicles driving east on Randall Parkway make right turning movements at a yellow flashing light to go south onto South College Road; and

WHEREAS, a traffic count collected by the WMPO in February of 2021 on South College Road south of Randall Parkway was 80,250 vehicles per day (vpd); and

WHEREAS, in Fall 2020, the University of North Carolina Wilmington had a record 17,915 students and an 88% 6-year persistence rate, and the student population is expected to continue to grow as programs and reputation soar; and

WHEREAS, the University of North Carolina Wilmington has a history of supporting enhanced bicycle and pedestrian safety on its main campus through pedestrian signals, signage, and safety education; and

WHEREAS, the completion of a feasibility study to evaluate a pedestrian bridge, tunnel, or other potential alternative crossing solutions could lead to enhanced bicycle and pedestrian safety along the busy South College Road corridor.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:
THAT, the University of North Carolina Wilmington hereby supports the North Carolina Department of Transportation in conducting a feasibility study to evaluate solutions to provide an improved bicycle and pedestrian crossing of South College Road in the vicinity of UNCW.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the University of North Carolina Wilmington Board of Trustees on July 16th, 2021.

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Chair

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Assistant Secretary