

Resolution to Take Measures to Reduce Safety Hazards for Pedestrians on the Main Campus of Marshall University

Whereas On November 4, 2021, a Marshall University student was killed as she was crossing 3rd Avenue at the intersection of 18th street.

Whereas On October 18, 2021, a Marshall University Professor was struck by a vehicle as he crossed the intersection of 3rd Avenue and Hal Greer Blvd.

Whereas The main campus of Marshall University is intersected by two one-way corridors consisting of four lanes each, with speed limits of 35 miles per hour.

Whereas Multiple studies conducted by experts external and internal to Marshall University have presented the risk to pedestrians and clear solutions to maximize pedestrian safety.

Whereas Marshall University works continuously to ensure campus safety policies and procedures are reflective of best scientific and management practices with utilization of best available technologies.

Be it resolved that the Faculty of Marshall University views pedestrian safety on and around Marshall University campus as paramount, and that taking no steps to improve pedestrian safety on the Huntington Campus is deprioritization of its faculty, staff and students.

We so resolve.

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:

APPROVED BY THE
FACULTY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

DISAPPROVED BY THE
FACULTY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

READ: _____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SR 21-22-17

Recommends that immediate and measurable steps be taken to maximize the safety of pedestrian users (including but not limited to cyclists and persons with disabilities) along all roads and other pedestrian areas in the proximity of Marshall University's Huntington Campus. Those actions include:

That the Administration create a Pedestrian Safety Task Force (PSTF) that is comprised of faculty, staff, and students representing their respective governing bodies on campus; include their input on decisions affecting pedestrian-related safety around campus; and permit them to interface with relevant external entities as university representatives.

That the Administration immediately request a Road Safety Audit Review (RSA) be performed by the Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia Interstate Planning Commission (KYOVA) and include the PSTF in the process.

That the Administration take necessary action to expeditiously implement the recommendations from the RSA Review over which Marshall University has direct control.

That the Administration procure the services of a consultant to prioritize the RSA Review recommendations that are within Marshall University's direct control (such as but not limited to educational campaigns) and develop a plan to fund, design and implement them.

That the Administration advocate, to the fullest extent of its ability, for the funding and implementation of the prioritized RSA Review recommendations that are outside Marshall University's direct control.

RATIONALE:

The major roadways surrounding the Huntington campus were designed when movement of motorized traffic was the main priority, which is in direct conflict with a mixed-use setting that is comprised of thousands of crossing pedestrians each day. On November 4, 2021, a Marshall University student was killed as she was crossing 3rd Avenue at the intersection of 18th Street¹. On October 18, 2021, a Marshall University professor was struck by a vehicle as he crossed Hal Greer Blvd at the intersection of 3rd Avenue. These are the two most recent reported incidents involving a vehicle hitting a pedestrian, but there are many more – both reported² and unreported. A 2012 Downtown Huntington Access Study commissioned by KYOVA identified pedestrian safety concerns along 3rd and 5th Avenues around campus and recommended alternative roadway cross-sections to alleviate the problem, which have not been implemented³. A 2013 Marshall University Campus Master Plan identified vehicle-pedestrian conflicts as a problem around the Huntington campus and recommended mitigation that has not been implemented⁴.

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:

¹ <https://www.wsaz.com/2021/11/04/pedestrian-hit-by-car-huntington/>

² https://www.herald-dispatch.com/_recent_news/marshall-student-struck-by-car-in-campus-crosswalk/article_2138cc6e-96dd-11e6-bab8-db4963f3947b.html

³ <http://www.kyovaipc.org/HuntingtonDT/documents/FinalDowntownHuntingtonAccessStudy.pdf>

⁴ https://www.cityofhuntington.com/assets/pdf/2013_MU_Master_Plan_Report_FINAL.pdf

**PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**

SR 21-22-17

APPROVED BY THE
FACULTY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

DISAPPROVED BY THE
FACULTY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

DISAPPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

NOTE: Recommendations should be sent to the Faculty Senate office via email. Recommendations longer than one page or those with attachments are to be sent in final format with this as a cover page. Any incomplete recommendations or those requiring extensive formatting changes will be returned to the recording secretary/committee.