

West Virginia University
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association
Assembly Resolution: AR-2024-04-02

**AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE WVU
ADMINISTRATORS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS TO ADDRESS THE
CONCERNS IDENTIFIED IN THE SPRING 2025 SAFETY AND
ACCESSIBILITY WALK**

Short Title:	Safety and Accessibility Walk Report
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Sponsor(s):	Shelby Davis, Senator Matthew Olivero, President Pro Tempore Katelyn Merlin, College Senator (HSC) Alex Olivero, Senator Peyton Bielinski, College Senator (CAHS)
Contributor(s):	Emma Plymale, Senator Lilly Henson, College Senator (Eberly) Mimi Ferguson, Local Governance Liaison Sydney Fleece, College Senator (Chambers) Mary Roush, Communications Coordinator
Committee Endorsement:	Health and Safety
First Reading Date:	04/02/2025
Second Reading Date:	N/A–Intent to Fast Track
Date of Approval:	04/02/2025
Presidential Signature:	

Whereas, West Virginia University is “dedicated to providing a safe learning, working, and living environment for [its] students, faculty, staff, and visitors;” and¹,

Whereas, the West Virginia University Student Government Association mission statement reads, “We, the students of West Virginia University, desire to...help ensure that the personal freedoms and general welfare of the students within our University are protected;”² and,

Whereas, Board of Governors rule 1.6 prohibits discrimination, including: “failure to provide reasonable accommodation, consistent with state and federal law, to persons with disabilities;”³ and,

Whereas, according to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, “...risk of pedestrian death is 5 percent at impacts of 20 mi/h, 45 percent at impacts of 30 mi/h, and 85 percent at impacts of 40 mi/h (3), indicating that decreasing average vehicle speed decreases injury severity and the probability of pedestrian fatality in the event of a collision;”⁴ and,

Whereas, according to the West Virginia Department of Transportation, in 2021 (latest collected data) there were 7,388 pedestrians killed in traffic accidents in the state, making a 12.5% increase from the previous year (2020); this is the highest pedestrian deaths since 1981 (7,837 deaths)⁵; and,

Whereas, in 2022, one person was killed in a motor vehicle accident involving a pedestrian in the city of Morgantown⁶; and,

Whereas, on March 24, 2025, the West Virginia University Student Government Association conducted its Spring Safety and Accessibility Walk, consisting of Downtown and Evansdale campuses; and,

¹ <https://safety.wvu.edu/>

² <https://sga.wvu.edu/about/our-mission>

³ <https://policies.wvu.edu/finalized-bog-rules/bog-governance-rule-1-6-rule>

⁴ https://www.pedbikeinfo.org/cms/downloads/PedestrianLitReview_April2014.pdf

⁵ <https://shorturl.at/w2nLr>

⁶ <https://cdan.dot.gov/query>

Whereas, participants in the walk took note of broken/cracked sidewalks, missing sidewalks, missing/unlit lighting, lack of curb ramps, and lack of truncated domes on sidewalks.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University:

Section 1: recommends that the University and City of Morgantown investigate and address the safety and accessibility concerns detailed in Appendix A: Safety and Accessibility Walk Report; and,

Section 2: requests that the University and the City provide regular updates on the status of the concerns outlined in the report, as well as any future plans to address them; and,

Section 3: Upon passage and approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to:

Mandates:

G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students

Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)

Gordon E. Gee, University President

Daily Athenaeum

Charlie Long, Student Body President

Abigail Browning, Student Body Vice President

Sherry St. Clair, Chief, University Police Department

Chuck Roberts, Assistant Vice President, WVU Facilities and Services

Meshea L. Poore, Esq., Vice President, Division of Campus Engagement and Compliance

Ron Justice, Director, Local Government Relations

Drew Gatlin, Staff Engineer, City of Morgantown

Sam Miller, Maintenance Director, WVU Facilities and Services

John Hando, Risk Assessment and Emergency Response

Shauna Johnson, Director of News Communications

Trish Cedana, Executive Director, Housing and Residence Life

Matthew Cross, Chairperson, Pedestrian Safety Board

Haley Orcutt, Executive Secretary

Appendix A- Safety and Accessibility Walk Report

Executive Summary

On March 24th, 2025, the West Virginia University Student Government Association conducted the Spring 2025 Safety and Accessibility walk alongside members of the University and City. The walk was divided into two sections: Downtown and Evansdale campuses. The findings of these walks are summarized in this report. As with the Spring 2023, and Fall 2024 Safety and Accessibility walks, participants utilized the QuickCapture app. In total there were 146 results: there were 119 categorized reports and 27 uncategorized reports. The full database of reports can be found [here](#)⁷. While the walk was a success in terms of participation and reporting, the authors believe it is crucial for the City and University to develop more comprehensive assessment and reporting plans for safety and accessibility deficiencies, so that student involvement can shift from a need to a luxury. Findings that were of higher priority are bolded for convenience.

Collection Process

Electronic field reporting using geolocated photos ⁸ – developed by the City of Morgantown and first deployed in the Spring 2023 walk and has been used in all Safety walks conducted since, including in the Spring 2024 walk – continues to have large effects on the complaint submission and reporting process. The most obvious of these effects is an increase in the number of reports submitted. Previous walks generated, on

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<https://morgantownwv.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/a06645e8bea0419f8a6dd8eb345cc58b>

⁸ <https://arcg.is/1fTqXC0>

average, several dozen reports for each event. The Spring 2025 walk generated almost 150 reports, all of which were reported on the custom ArcGIS Quick Capture app.

Reports from Evansdale Campus

Accessibility Reports

- There were 4 accessibility reports
 - 3 were because of broken crosswalk indicator buttons
 - One was a crumbled sidewalk/ no ramp onto the street

Lighting Reports

- Light that was out near the Mineral Resource Building on Evansdale Dr.
 - 1186
- Light out in the Decal lot at the Recreation Center
 - 1485
- Light out on Evansdale Dr. near the Mineral Resources Building
 - BO165/P13
- Lighting requested on Rec Center Dr. at the base of the hill on the sidewalk leading up the front of the rec center.
- **Rawley Ave is frequently used for students to access Kroger and other businesses. There is poor lighting in this area, which could prove to be dangerous. Lighting is requested in this area**

Sidewalk Reports

- There were multiple cracked/ crumbling sidewalks around campus. This poses as a tripping hazard to students and a barrier to disabled students.
- Missing truncated domes reported in multiple areas. This poses as an issue for blind pedestrians as they cannot tell where the sidewalk ends and street begins without them.

- There are areas, especially near Oakland Hall where the sidewalks end. Students frequently walk through these areas and no sidewalks pose a risk for pedestrians.

Crossings Reports

- The crossings reports generated from this walk were generally for repainting existing crosswalks
- By Oakland Hall, there is an intersection by the Oakland Apartments and the business center on Oakland St. where cross walks were requested.

No Category Reports

- The walking center around the rec fields and tennis courts were requested to be repaired. The specific area is near the tennis courts, by the court in the single fence.
- There were a few reports of unmarked speed bumps near Oakland Hall.

Reports from Downtown Campus

Accessibility Reports

- Many of the reports generated involve broken crosswalk buttons.
 - **Especially on the intersection of University Ave and Crossings**
- Curb ramps that lack truncated domes are scattered throughout the entirety of the campus

Sidewalk Reports

- Many sidewalks need shaved/ fixed cracks along Grant Ave, Prospect St, Willey Ave, and Beechurst.
- Pose as tripping hazards and accessibility issues.

Crossings Reports

- Crosswalks need repainted/ repaired
 - **Especially on Campus Dr. and University Ave crosswalk and Campus Dr. in front of the LSB. Hundreds of students cross at these locations a day.**
- Crosswalks were requested on University Ave in front of the Phi Beta Pi sorority house, as many students cross in that location a day.

No Category

- Flashing crosswalks were requested in front of the LSB on Campus Dr and on Third St. crosswalk by Seneca Hall.
- The staircase (presumably) behind Stalnaker Hall leading up to Dadisman hall is crumbling and is risky for students to walk.
- The accessibility ramp leading up to Dadisman Hall is loose and could be dangerous for people with disabilities who use it.

