

Rationale for SENATE RESOLUTION 03-25-26

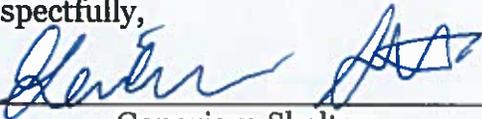
All,

The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is the voice and governing body for the undergraduate student community at the University of Akron. It has been brought to the attention of the Undergraduate Student Government that there is a significant lack of accessibility within the University of Akron's map services, both at large and within the UAkron mobile app. Given the recent construction on campus, inclement weather conditions, and the presence of pop-up events or temporary barriers, navigation can be difficult for many students. This issue is especially challenging for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, have physical disabilities or mobility concerns, or experience panic or anxiety disorders that make crowded or obstructed areas stressful to navigate.

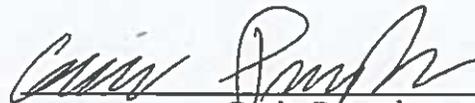
To address these barriers, we propose the University of Akron enhance its digital map and UAkron App by incorporating accessibility-focused features. These updates should include an audio navigation service to assist users who are blind or visually impaired, as well as clearly marked ADA-compliant routes and a map of the accessibility-friendly indoor paths. In addition, the map should be regularly updated to reflect temporary obstructions such as construction zones, weather-related closures, or campus events.

Implementing these improvements will benefit not only current students but also prospective students, visiting families, alumni, and community guests who could better use the map to navigate campus. By prioritizing accessibility in our digital infrastructure, the University of Akron can create a safer, more welcoming environment that reflects its commitment to equal access and student success.

Respectfully,



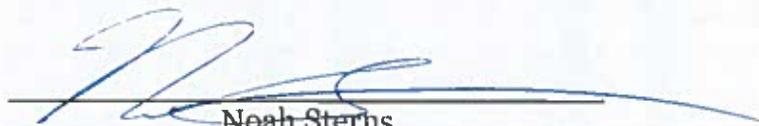
Genevieve Shelton  
*Senator At-Large*



Garin Prough  
*Senator for the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences*



Sridevi Swaminathan  
*Senator At-Large*



Noah Sterns  
*Senator At-Large*

LEGISLATION NO.: SR 03-25-26

SUBJECT: Auditor  
Maps

REVIEWED BY COMMITTEE: Student Engagement

ON: Nov, 13, 2025

SPONSORS: Shelton, Swaminathan, Sterns,  
Prough

DATE INTRODUCED: Nov 20, 2025

**A RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY OF UNIVERSITY OF AKRON MAPS**

**WHEREAS: THE CURRENT ONLINE APP-BASED MAP DOES NOT PROVIDE CLEAR ACCESSIBILITY ROUTES, NOR DOES IT INCLUDE FEATURES THAT ACCOUNT FOR TEMPORARY OBSTRUCTIONS OR BUILDING ACCESS CHANGES; AND**

**WHEREAS: ADDING AN AUDIO NAVIGATION SERVICE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED USERS WOULD FURTHER ENHANCE INCLUSIVITY AND INDEPENDENCE, ALLOWING ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY TO NAVIGATE CONFIDENTLY; AND**

**WHEREAS: DUE TO ONGOING CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION, INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS, AND FREQUENT POP-UP EVENTS, STUDENTS AND GUESTS MAY ENCOUNTER BARRIERS THAT MAKE NAVIGATION ACROSS CAMPUS CHALLENGING; AND**

**WHEREAS: IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY IN THE UAKRON MAP WOULD NOT ONLY SUPPORT CURRENT STUDENTS BUT ALSO POSITIVELY IMPACT VISITING FAMILIES, PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, ALUMNI, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ATTENDING CAMPUS EVENTS; AND**

**WHEREAS: THIS INITIATIVE CALLS FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, AND PFOC TO ENSURE THAT THE NEW FEATURES MEET ADA STANDARDS AND EFFECTIVELY SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY.**

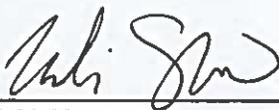
**BE IT  
RESOLVED: THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT URGES THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON TO  
PRIORITIZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENHANCED ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES WITHIN THE  
UAKRON APP AND ONLINE CAMPUS MAP TO INCREASE CAMPUS ACCESSIBILITY.**

\_\_\_\_\_, NOW THEREFORE  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT SENATE CONFIRMS SAID  
ADOPTION OF THIS [RESOLUTION/BILL] BY A MAJORITY AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF SENATE AS A WHOLE.

ACTION TAKEN BY SENATE: Passed

  
USG SENATE CHAIR

11/20/25  
DATE

  
USG PRESIDENT

11/21/25  
DATE

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Thank you to the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) for thoughtfully identifying key opportunities to enhance campus accessibility and navigation. As Director of the Office of Accessibility, I fully support exploring the proposed improvements to both physical signage and digital mapping tools, particularly those that prioritize navigation through known accessible routes.

These recommendations reflect our shared commitment to creating an inclusive, welcoming, and easily navigable campus for all students, visitors, and community members. Permanent signage designed with universal design principles will significantly improve wayfinding for individuals with disabilities—including, but not limited to, those with visual impairments, cognitive challenges, and mental health conditions—as well as anyone unfamiliar with our campus layout.

Likewise, enhancing existing navigation tools—such as the UAkron mobile app—and other digital maps with accessibility-focused features like audio navigation, ADA-compliant route indicators, and real-time updates will empower students with mobility challenges, sensory sensitivities, and anxiety-related conditions to navigate campus with confidence and safety.

I look forward to collaborating with campus partners to advocate for and advance these meaningful improvements.

Warm Regards,

Jessica DeFago, MA

Director  
Office of Accessibility  
The University of Akron