A Resolution Urging the Development of a Nite Ride Mobile Application

WHEREAS the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the governing body for all on-campus students, and

WHEREAS the RHA has priority influence with the Department of Transportation Services (DOTS) through the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), and

WHEREAS DOTS operates Nite Ride, a “curb-to-curb service that serves areas of campus that are not included on the evening service routes,”¹ and

WHEREAS Nite Ride offers students a safe alternative to return to campus residence halls and facilities, and

WHEREAS the only current method for students to request a Nite Ride is by calling a specified phone number, and

WHEREAS many students have expressed the need for improvements to Nite Ride accessibility and reliability, and

WHEREAS the opportunity exists to develop a mobile application for use with Nite Ride, and

WHEREAS this mobile application would make it easier for students to request a Nite Ride without calling a designated number, and

WHEREAS the mobile application would easily identify areas where Nite Ride is available, and allow students to know on-demand where their Nite Ride vehicle is, as well as its estimated time of arrival, and

WHEREAS the mobile application would increase Nite Ride’s ease-of-access, allowing more students a safer means of transportation, and

WHEREAS the mobile application could serve many other purposes, and

WHEREAS DOTS would pay a contractor $4,950.00 to develop this mobile application, and

WHEREAS DOTS would pay the contractor $1.00 for each Nite Ride used, and

WHEREAS DOTS does not currently expect to need to raise student fees in order to cover the cost of developing and maintaining the mobile application,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the RHA supports the acquisition of the technologies and resources needed to develop this mobile application, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RHA, in the interest of on-campus student safety, urge the development of the mobile application as soon as possible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RHA urges DOTS to use non-student fee sources of funding, such as grants, to develop the mobile application, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the RHA works with DOTS through TAC to ensure that future Nite Ride costs remain economical for students.

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References:
1 http://www.dots.umd.edu/niteride.html