



D U R H A M

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Durham Transportation Department ■ 101 City Hall Plaza ■ Durham, NC 27701

April 5, 2007

Joey Hopkins, PE
Deputy Division Engineer
N.C. Department of Transportation – Division 5
2612 N. Duke Street
Durham, NC 27704

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

The Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) advises the local governing bodies and monitors developments that affect bicycle and pedestrian transit. We have asked the Durham Transportation Division to share the list of 2007 NCDOT resurfacing projects in Durham.

We are glad to see that these roads are slated for maintenance. We also view some of these projects as golden opportunities to provide bike facilities for the City and County of Durham. In our view, some of these projects already contain ample right of way width to provide either bike lanes or wide outside lanes (WOLs). These projects are listed below:

- One project that rises to the top of the list is Chapel Hill Road. This road corridor (north of Cornwallis Road) is listed as a Phase I bike corridor in the adopted 2006 Durham Comprehensive Bike Plan. It was placed in the Phase I list because it would connect several neighborhoods in Durham with downtown districts and the American Tobacco Trail. It was also placed in this phase because it would be relatively easy to re-stripe.

As there appears to be some on-street parking along parts of this corridor, we firmly recommend that NCDOT paint white edge lines 10' from the center line. The remaining space on the sides could be used for either parking or bike travel. The shoulder lane could be narrowed down to 5' at intersections.

- The Erwin Road corridor also presents an opportunity to provide a direct bike connection to Duke West Campus, Central Campus and Ninth Street. It would also connect with future bike lanes on Moreene Road.

We strongly recommend new striping that provides 14' WOLs between Cameron Blvd. and Anderson Street, and striping for bike lanes between Anderson and Main Street.

- Though it is a relatively short stretch, the section of Sedwick Road between Revere Road and Dedmon Court should be striped to include bike lanes. It would connect several streets in the Parkwood neighborhood to existing bike lanes on Revere. Additionally, this section provides ample width for both travel and bike lanes.
- On the section of NC 55 between Riddle Road and Cornwallis Road, please restripe to provide 11' inside lanes and 13' or 14' WOLs. We also ask NCDOT to consider lowering the speed limit in this section.
- On the section of Page Road between US 70 and TW Alexander Drive, please provide bike lanes or 13' or 14' WOLs where feasible.

Most of the 2007 resurfacing projects for Durham are slated for either bike lanes or WOLs in both the 2006 Bicycle Plan and DCHC MPO's 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan. We realize that the listed projects contain little or no budget for treatments outside of the existing roadway. Nonetheless, we urge NCDOT to provide shoulders where possible by painting of either 10' or 11' travel lanes.

In the corridors where curb and gutter is present, we strongly request the incorporation of drainage grates that are safe for bicycle usage. In these areas, the pavement should be feathered to allow the new surface to meet the gutter pan smoothly. The existing pavement should be milled, if necessary, to provide this smooth transition.

In the future, we would ask that your division provide more advanced notice of planned re-surfacing projects in Durham. This could give NCDOT and the Durham Transportation Division more time to cooperate on projects where better bicycle facilities may be feasible.

For your reference, a copy of the 2006 Durham Comprehensive Bicycle Plan can be found at this site:

http://www.durhamnc.gov/departments/works/bike_plan.cfm

Thank you for your time and consideration of our requests. We would be glad to discuss these with you in more depth and to field any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Daniel Clever
Chairman
Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

cc: Mike Kneiss, P.E. , NCDOT
Tasha Johnson, P.E., NCDOT
Bob Shultes , NCDOT
Steve Johnson, NCDOT
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