



**D U R H A M**

**Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission**

Durham Transportation Division ▪ 101 City Hall Plaza ▪ Durham, NC 27701

November 30, 2007

Durham City Council  
101 City Hall Plaza  
Durham, NC 27701

Dear Mayor Bell and City Council Members:

The Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) has learned that the Durham City Council will soon consider how to spend approximately \$12 Million in two-thirds bonds. In addition to funding critical improvements mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, we strongly recommend that the Council should consider using this opportunity to provide extra funding for key bicycle and pedestrian projects that are facing budget gaps. These projects are the replacement NC 147 pedestrian bridge and Phase E of the American Tobacco Trail.

The replacement bridge over NC147 has already been designed, but city officials learned that the \$2 Million set aside for construction of the project will not suffice. This bridge will restore a vital pedestrian connection between neighborhoods that were severed by the Freeway. It will also serve as a prominent gateway to Downtown Durham for motorists driving up the Freeway from the south. In addition, with the amount of development that has and is occurring in this area it would serve as an important pedestrian and bicycle link to commercial, residential and downtown development.

Another key project that should receive additional funding is Phase E of the American Tobacco Trail, which encompasses both the I-40 bike/ped bridge and about four miles of connecting trail. Officials revealed at the preliminary public comment meeting on November 13 that existing funds (\$4.9 Million) may not be enough to construct this vital section of the Trail. Phase E will be a heavily used segment of the trail once it is built, given the fact that it will connect existing segments of trail to the Southpoint Mall area and south Durham.

Based upon trail counts taken to the north and south of the current trail gap, it is safe to say that the bridge over the interstate will be teeming with pedestrians and bikes once it opens.

Construction costs escalate by the day. Therefore, it is not only critical that additional funds are found to keep these projects on track, but also that the city does everything in its power to ensure that design and construction progress as quickly as possible.

Once completed, we are certain that these bridges and trail sections will become undeniable indicators that Durham is a healthy and forward-thinking place in which to live and conduct business. Durham is already ahead of many cities when it comes having trails that serve both recreational and transportation purposes. If we progress on this track, we are confident that Durham will soon be the envy of cities across the state and nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Clever', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Clever  
Chair  
Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

cc: Patrick Baker, City Manager