



D U R H A M

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

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

TO: Mayor Bill Bell and Durham City Council Members
FROM: Dan Clever, Chair, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
RE: Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner Position
DATE: March 31, 2008

The City Council in 2006 adopted the Durham Bicycle Transportation Plan, which calls for two bicycle and pedestrian planners to implement the recommendations of the plan. In 2006, the City Council also adopted the DurhamWalks Pedestrian Plan, which lists a variety of new and much needed improvements in the City.

At this time, Durham has one half-time bicycle and pedestrian planner. His salary is paid in part by the MPO and his time is divided between the City and the MPO. Without the addition of a full-time dedicated bicycle and pedestrian planner, many of the initiatives set forth in the bicycle and pedestrian plans will not be realized.

The investment by the City in the bicycle and pedestrian plans showed wisdom and foresight. We know that the budget is tight. However, now that the nation is finally recognizing the benefits of biking and walking for recreation and transportation, the City must make these benefits available to our citizens.

A full time bicycle and pedestrian planner will assist the Transportation Division in several key areas:

- Coordinating special projects such as the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road Enhancement;
- Assisting in the various TIP and CIP projects devoted to bike and pedestrian infrastructure;
- Updating bike and pedestrian educational materials and maps;
- Coordinating with federal, state and local officials to assist with implementation of the Plans;
- Communicating with other transportation groups such as the MPO, NCDOT and TTA to insure that the Plans are adhered to whenever possible;
- Expanding community relations and partnering with businesses and non-profits;
- Working with the citizens to expand and improve non-automotive transportation;
- Providing staff support to BPAC; and

- Generally promoting more biking and walking in Durham as a transportation alternative and as a path to a healthy way of life.

BPAC would also like to emphasize that an additional planner would be extremely useful in identifying and completing competitive grants for bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects such as the Safe Routes to School program and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program.

BPAC would be happy to work with you to create and shape this new position. In support of this, we have adopted the attached resolution in support of funding for the additional bike and pedestrian transportation planner. Please contact me if you should have any questions or concerns.

cc: Patrick Baker, City Manager
Kathryn Kalb, Public Works Director
Mark Ahrendsen, Transportation Manager

**Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission Resolution
In Support of Funding an Additional Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Planner**

Whereas, the Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) serves as an advisory body to the Durham City Council and the Durham Board of County Commissioners and makes recommendations regarding bicycle and pedestrian facilities and programs; and

Whereas, there is presently one bicycle and pedestrian transportation planner in the Transportation Division who devotes half of his time to City of Durham matters; and

Whereas, the Durham Comprehensive Bicycle Plan recommends two bicycle and pedestrian transportation planners within the Transportation Division to help implement the various suggested programs and facilities of the Bike Plan; and

Whereas, the Bike Plan was adopted by the City Council and Board of County Commissioners in 2006; and

Whereas, the Durham Walks Pedestrian Plan details various grant and funding sources that should be pursued and which fund the various suggested programs and facilities set forth on the Pedestrian Plan; and

Whereas, the Pedestrian Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2006; and

Whereas, an additional planner within the Transportation Division is required to assist with applying for and managing enhancement grants, including the Safe-Routes-to-School Program; to oversee and manage the City's pedestrian bond projects; and to coordinate the bicycle and pedestrian TIP projects in Durham; and

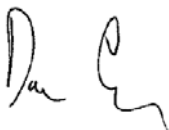
Whereas, an additional planner within the Transportation Division will improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of the Division on a short and long term basis by performing a variety of planning, administrative and project management duties; and

Whereas, the citizens of Durham have shown an interest in bicycle and pedestrian activity and have supported bond funding for trail construction, sidewalks and other pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the City and County; and

Whereas, numerous benefits result from the bicycle and pedestrian activity including enhancing the health, well being and quality of life of our citizens and promoting community investment, economic growth and development;

Now therefore, be it resolved that BPAC recommends and endorses the employment of a bicycle and pedestrian planner in the Transportation Division of the Public Works Department.

Adopted on February 19, 2008.



Dan Clever, Chair
Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission