



D U R H A M

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

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

April 7, 2008

Ms. Jennifer Harris, PE
North Carolina Turnpike Authority
1578 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1578

Subject: Triangle Parkway from NC 540 to I-40, STIP Project No. U-4763B, Wake and Durham Counties, WBS No. 39942.1.TA1

Dear Ms. Harris,

The Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment Document and the Preferred Alternative Map for this project and is pleased to offer comments and recommendations for your consideration. We request that the following comments be entered into the public record and that these concerns be addressed in post-hearing meeting and fully incorporated into the Final Environmental Assessment and the scope of the subsequent Triangle Parkway Design-Build contract.

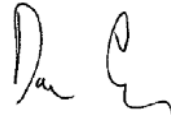
- 1) We request that the NCTA construct incidental bicycle and pedestrian facilities along all local roadways and signalized intersections within the project scope, as required by the Durham Uniform Development Ordinance, the adopted Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan, and NCDOT Policies. This includes:
 - a) Constructing five-foot wide concrete sidewalks along both sides of Hopson Road and Davis Drive for the full limits of roadway improvements within Durham City limits.
 - b) Constructing four-foot wide bicycle lanes along both sides of Hopson Road, Davis Drive, and NC54 for the full limits of all roadway improvements.
 - c) Constructing the RTP Jogging Path in accordance with the RTP Master Plan along roadways within the RTP Service District for the full limits of roadway improvements, to include Hopson Road, Davis Drive, and NC54. The proposal to replace the existing sidewalks on both sides of NC54 (see page 3-12) is not necessary as sidewalks do not exist in this section of NC4. However, the RTP Jogging Trail, a pedestrian-only facility (not a multi-use path as noted on page 3-12), does exist along the south side of NC54 and must be included in the design of the new bridge and approaches.
 - d) Providing ADA-compliant crosswalks and pedestrian activated crossing signals at all intersections, to include Davis Drive and Hopson Road, Triangle Parkway interchange ramps at Hopson Road, and Triangle Parkway interchange ramps at Davis Drive. This is

especially important given the number of motor vehicle travel lanes proposed at these intersections. Crossing signals shall be timed to allow safe crossing, and shall include median islands/refuges and other elements as necessary.

- 2) We request that the NCTA maintain full pedestrian and bicycle connectivity along the temporary NC54 bridge, to include full accommodation of pedestrians and bicycles along this major bicycle and pedestrian corridor within RTP.
- 3) We request that NCTA commit to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access within all construction zones as required by the MUTCD and FHWA. Pedestrian zones within the right-of-way shall be physically separated from vehicular traffic to maximize pedestrian safety. Share The Road and other appropriate signs shall be posted to alert motor vehicle operators to the presence of bicycles. Speed limits within construction zones along local roadways shall not exceed 45 mph.
- 4) We request that all existing and temporary bicycle and pedestrian facilities are continuously maintained in safe and useful condition for the duration of the project. This may include routine sweeping of gravel and debris from travel lanes, bike lanes and pedestrian zones, repair of potholes and other road hazards, and to provide all other necessary routine maintenance for the safe passage of pedestrians and cyclists as may be required.

The construction of bicycle facilities on local roads is critical to enhancing non-motorized mobility options included commuters to employment centers within the RTP. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this project and respectfully request a copy of the Minutes of the post-hearing meeting.

Sincerely,



Dan Clever

cc: Bill Bell, Mayor, City of Durham
Ellen Reckhow, Chair, Durham Board of County Commissioners
Wally Bowman, NCDOT Division 5 Engineer
Tom Norman, NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation
Mark Ahrendsen, Transportation Manager, City of Durham
Dale McKeel, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, City of Durham/DCHC MPO