



D U R H A M

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

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

September 22, 2008

Wally Bowman, Division Engineer
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Highway Division 5
2612 N. Duke Street
Durham, NC 27704

Dear Mr. Bowman:

As you know, the US 70 Business (Main Street) bridge over Campus Drive in Durham (TIP #B-3638) is slated for replacement in the next few years. We are pleased to learn that both NCDOT and Duke University are in favor of modifying the current four-lane cross-section to a new cross-section that will provide a travel lane in each direction, a center turn lane, and bike lanes on both sides.

Main Street is one of the key routes in the Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan, which was adopted by Durham in 2006. For the section between Morgan Street and Ninth Street, the bike plan calls for modifying the cross section to incorporate bike lanes. It would be ideal if the cross section mentioned above could be applied to this entire section of Main Street.

However, in order to restripe Main Street, it will likely have to be resurfaced first. When the new bridge is put in, how extensive will the associated resurfacing be? If it will be limited to the area immediately adjacent to the bridge, what options are available to extend the resurfacing to Morgan and Ninth?

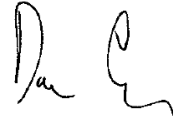
Would it be possible to coordinate this project with the annual road resurfacing that is conducted by Division 5? Aside from the need to restripe in order to install bike lanes, this section of Main has several rough patches in the pavement and could use resurfacing.

We are convinced that Main Street will be a heavily used bike corridor once bike lanes are installed and road surface issues are fixed. It will connect areas that already see a good deal of bike activity- Duke University, Ninth Street, and developing downtown districts. The city has recently installed new bike racks in these areas, and they are usually full.

Main Street also serves as one of the primary bike routes in the city, providing a direct link between western Durham and the American Tobacco Trail.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions, or if there is anything that our commission could do to provide assistance in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Clever". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being more prominent than the last name "Clever".

Dan Clever
Chairman
BPAC

cc: 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