

DURHAM



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Department of Public Works

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October 22, 2009

Mr. Dan Clever
Durham Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Subject: City of Durham Driveway Standards

Dear Mr. Clever:

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission has requested that the Department of Public Works review our policy for use of a lip on driveways. The purpose of the lip is to channel stormwater. The lip mimics the curb face in low flow conditions, channels the water and helps to scour the drive of sediment. Without the lip the stormwater will spread and sediment will be deposited in the drive. This is a negative result in the eyes of driveway owners, and possibly creates a negative impact on cyclist as their wheels can slide on the deposited sand. Secondly, the creation of the lip eases construction. Typically a board is used as a form to create the lip and creates a relatively easy procedure for shaping the concrete. In the absence of a lip, then a vee is being formed which is more difficult to construct in field.

You mention wheelchairs and their ability to navigate driveways. Driveways are not ADA compliant, and are not intended to be. Driveways are typically designed for the passage of a vehicle. I value your concerns of our citizens and appreciate your viewpoint on this issue. At this time we do not foresee changing the City's driveway standard.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (919) 560-4326.

Sincerely,

Edward R. Venable
Manager of Engineering & Stormwater

C: Stacey Poston, General Services
Graham Summerson, Public Works
Michael Hughes, Public Works
Robert Joyner, Public Works
Beth Timson, Parks & Recreation
Mark Ahrendsen, PW/Transportation
Dale McKeel, PW/Transportation