



**D U R H A M**

## **Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission**

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

December 4, 2009

**TO:** Wally Bowman, Division Engineer, NCDOT Highway Division 5  
Mark Ahrendsen, Transportation Department, City of Durham

**FROM:** Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC)

**RE:** Stimulus Funds and Bicycle Facilities in Durham

Dear Mr. Bowman and Mr. Ahrendsen,

The Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) was pleased to learn that certain roads in central Durham were selected for resurfacing in 2010 using ARRA (Stimulus) funds. Three of these roads, Chapel Hill Street, University Drive and Lakewood Drive are definitely in need of resurfacing and the first two are identified as Phase I routes in the adopted 2006 Comprehensive Durham Bicycle Transportation Plan (Bike Plan). We urge the Division and the City of Durham to consider the implementation of on-road bicycle facilities for these streets. We also urge the City and Division to work together to find a way to fund resurfacing and bike lanes for other Phase I routes, especially West Main Street.

In addition to connectivity, the streets mentioned above were selected as Phase I routes because bicycle facilities can be added without the need for expensive right-of-way acquisition or widening. In order to accommodate this on the streets mentioned above, the Bike Plan recommends the implementation of road diets- the rearrangement or removal of motor vehicle lanes to incorporate bicycle lanes. This was accomplished on a section of Erwin Road and Duke University Road in Durham a few years ago.

Chapel Hill Street is a direct connection between Duke University, several neighborhoods and Downtown. The addition of bicycle lanes between Buchanan Boulevard and Pettigrew Street would be ideal. With the additional future application of shared road markings (sharrows) west of Buchanan, this would connect the bicycle friendly streets inside the Downtown Loop with the existing bicycle lanes on Duke University Road. It is our understanding that the daily volume for this road is suitable for implementation of a road diet. It is also our understanding that the

City of Durham has analyzed the impacts to intersections between Pettigrew and Buchanan, and that the flow of automobile traffic would not be too adversely affected.

We hope that NCDOT and the City of Durham will also consider the implementation of a road diet on University & Lakewood Drives. This combination would serve as a key bicycle route between Fayetteville Street, Downtown (via Blackwell Street) and the Forest Hills area. Bicycle lanes would help to enhance the 'bikeability' of the area around the Forest Hills Shopping Center, where the American Tobacco Trail is unfortunately grade-separated and inaccessible. Additionally, the Bike Plan also recommends on-road bicycle facilities for University Drive south of Forest Hills, which would eventually connect to the Rockwood area.

As you may know, there were a number of pedestrian and bicycle projects that were slated by the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO to receive stimulus funds in the next year. Some of these projects could not be built within ARRA timelines, or some projects may be built for less money than originally budgeted. We urge the Division and the City to direct any of these funds to other bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Though it was determined that stimulus funds should not be used for resurfacing of Main Street between Morgan and Ninth Streets, we urge both the Division and the City to incorporate a road diet for this section of Main in conjunction with the replacement of the bridge over Campus Drive at Duke University. As stated in our letter from earlier in the year, we feel that this would serve as a showcase bicycle route between Downtown, the Ninth Street area, and West Durham. It would also connect to the existing bicycle lanes on Erwin Road.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about our requests. Attached is a map of central Durham, as well as representation of what road diets would look like on Chapel Hill and Main Streets. We firmly believe that this is a golden opportunity to implement some key recommendations from our adopted plan and to improve multi-modal transportation in central Durham.

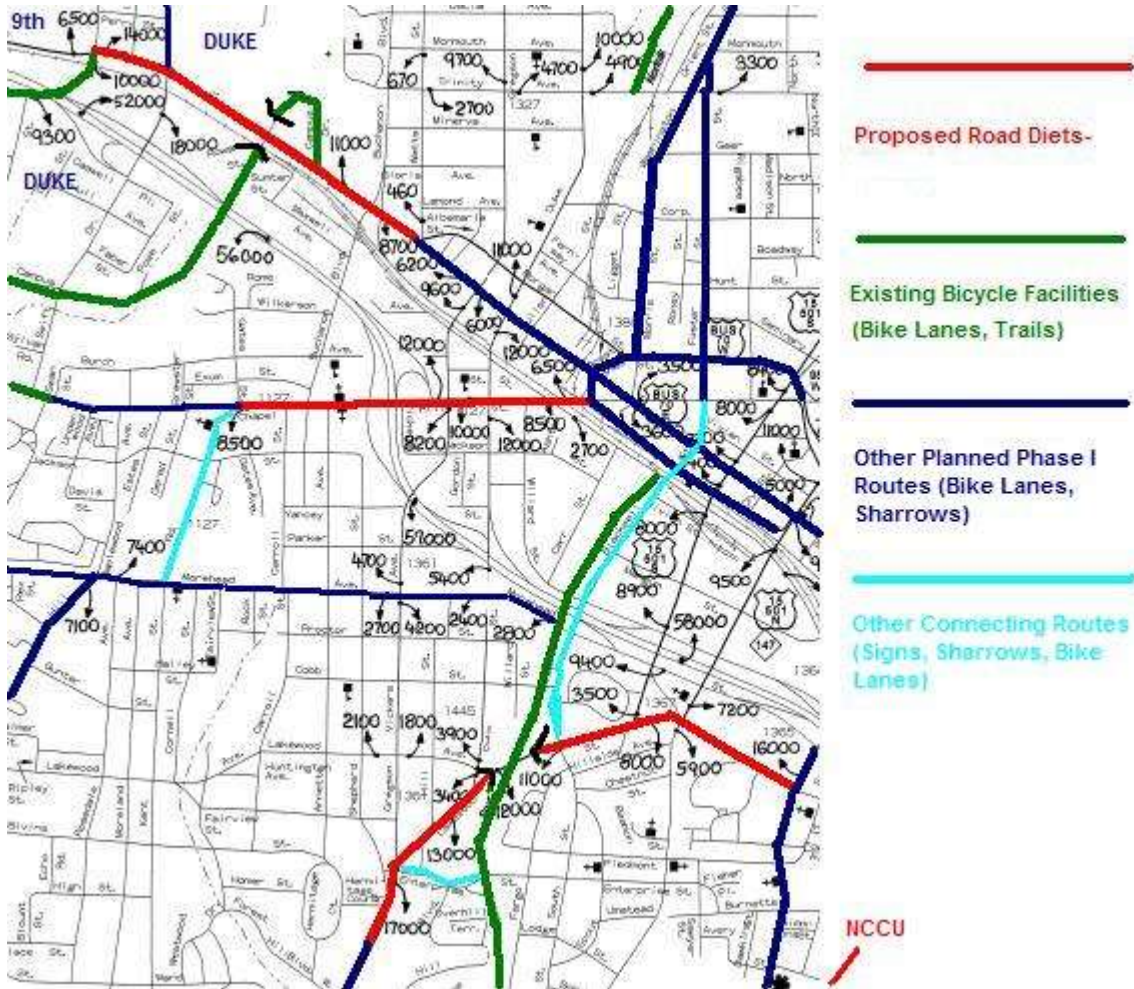
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AD" followed by a stylized flourish.

Alan Dippy  
Chair

cc: Mike Woodard, Councilman, City of Durham  
Tom Norman, NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation  
Dale McKeel, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, City of Durham/DCHC MPO

## Existing & Planned Bicycle Facilities- Central Durham 2007 NCDOT AADT Map



**Chapel Hill Street**



**Before**



**After**

**West Main Street**



**Before**



**After**