



D U R H A M

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

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

December 16, 2009

TO: Steven Medlin, Director, Planning Department, City & County of Durham
FROM: Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC)
RE: Bike Lane Widths along the Westpoint on 751 Development (Z0800031)

Dear Mr. Medlin,

As you know, a rezoning application has been submitted for the Westpoint on 751 development, which would lie at the junction of Renaissance Parkway and NC751. This application came before the Planning Commission at its November meeting, but a final recommendation was deferred to its January meeting.

As part of this development, improvements will be required along its frontage and up to Interstate 40. In conjunction with these improvements, the Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) noted to the applicant that the community would be better-served were the project to provide width for future 4' minimum bicycle lanes. This can be achieved by setting the curb and gutter far enough back from the center line of the road. White lines (fog lines) could be painted, but this space would not have to be designated as a bike lane, which requires pavement marking and signage.

We fear that were this project allowed to proceed with accommodations only for 14 foot wide outside lanes (Figure A in the attached diagram) rather than accommodations for the full width for future bike lanes (Figure B), it will be difficult and expensive to move the associated curb & gutter at that time when local or state government is prepared to build bike lanes along NC751. As shown in the diagram, the curb and gutter would have to be moved approximately 2 feet in order to meet NCDOT minimum requirements for a bicycle lane. Due to the considerable expense to taxpayers, we believe it is unlikely that the curb would ever be moved two feet in order to provide bike lanes along this corridor.

It should also be noted that the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan and Durham Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan recommend bicycle lanes for this

stretch of NC751, not wide outside lanes. We feel that every effort should be made to follow the intent of adopted policies.

For these reasons, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission believes the community will not be well-served by this project if it does not include bicycle lanes or appropriate width to accommodate bicycle lanes in the future and recommends that the rezoning request be denied without such accommodations.

Sincerely,

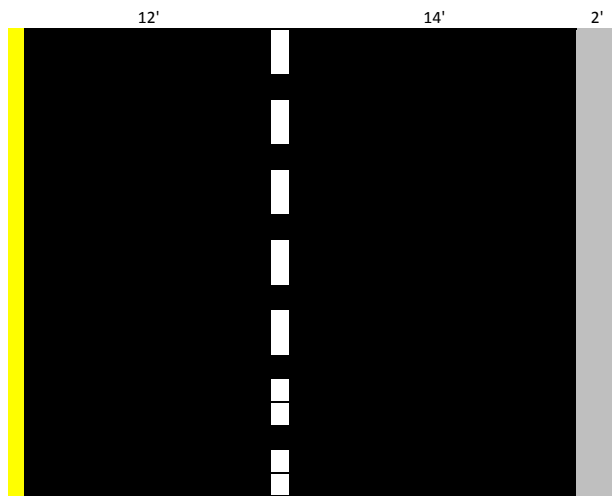
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AD" followed by a stylized flourish.

Alan Dippy
BPAC Chairman

cc: Patrick Young, Assistant Director, City/County Planning Department
Scott Whiteman, City/County Planning Department
Amy Wolff, City/County Planning Department
Bill Judge, Transportation Division, City of Durham
Dale McKeel, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, City of Durham/DCHC MPO

Wide Outside Lanes and Curb/Gutter- Westpoint at 751

Figure A



Wide Outside Lane

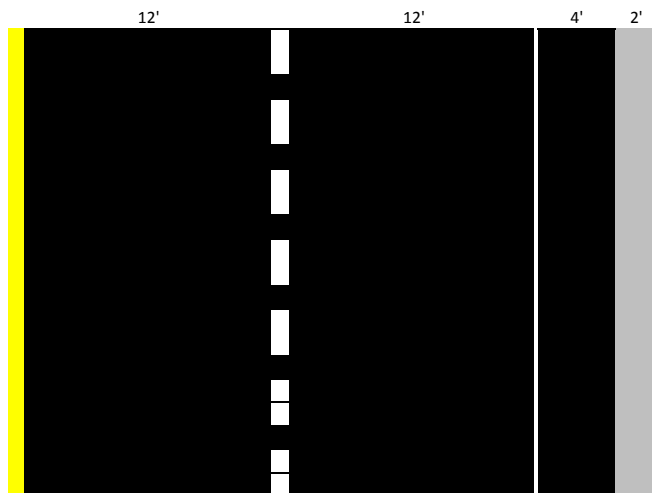
14' outside motor vehicle lane

2' gutter pan (curb is black line)

Not recommended for this section of NC751 (LRTP, Bike Plan)

In order to install bike lanes on a road with wide outside lanes, the curb and gutter would have to be moved ~2 feet.

Figure B



Width for Bike Lane

12' outside motor vehicle lane

4' minimum bike lane outside gutter pan

2' gutter pan (curb is black line)

Recommended for this section of NC751 (LRTP, Bike Plan)

Possible White/Fog Line