



D U R H A M

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

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

August 21, 2008

TO: Mayor Bill Bell and Durham City Council Members

FROM: Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

RE: Upcoming CIP Road Projects, Incorporation of Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities,
American Tobacco Trail

Dear Mayor Bell and City Council:

The Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) has learned that there are several road projects that are under design for various upgrades. These include extensions of South Roxboro Road and Carver Road, realignment of Buxton Drive and Riddle Road, and widening of Fayetteville Street and Hope Valley Road.

BPAC urges the city to follow the recommendations of the 2006 Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan, the 2006 DurhamWalks Pedestrian Plan and the Durham Comprehensive Plan when upgrading sections of city-maintained roads. When the city is funding or constructing upgrades to state-maintained roads, it should also follow these Plans to the extent allowed by the state. We would also ask that designs for the Fayetteville Street widening and Riddle/Buxton realignment incorporate safe intersection crossings for the American Tobacco Trail.

The following are items recommended for these corridor sections by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans:

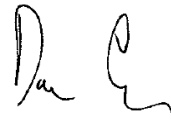
- South Roxboro Road extension- Bike lanes and sidewalk of both sides of the road;
- Riddle/Buxton realignment- Bike lanes and sidewalk on the upgraded section of Riddle Road;
- Hope Valley Road widening- Bike lanes and sidewalk on both sides of the road;
- Carver Street extension- Bike lanes and sidewalk on both sides of the road;
- Fayetteville Street widening between Woodcroft and Riddle Road- Bike lanes and sidewalk on both sides of the road.

Goal 8.1 of the Comprehensive Plan states that the city shall provide a safe and multi-modal transportation system that includes pedestrians and bicyclists. The first sentence of Policy 8.1.2.h states that, "The City Public Works Department and the City-County Planning Department shall re-evaluate adopted street cross sections in order to promote bicycle and pedestrian travel and safety, minimize impervious surfaces, and allow for more tree planting within the right-of-way, with particular consideration to variable standards by Tier."

Both the Riddle Road and Fayetteville Street projects will have impacts on the American Tobacco Trail. The trail crosses Fayetteville Street at Solite Park & Barbee and at the MLK Jr. Parkway intersection. The trail also crosses Riddle Road between Fayetteville and a driveway to Hillside High school. All three of these intersections currently carry a great deal of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian volume. As a frequent user of the trail, I feel that these at-grade crossings are hazardous, and I've heard likewise from other users. Many families with children use the trail. Vehicular traffic volume will only increase when these roads are upgraded. We also urge city council and staff to ensure that these bike and pedestrian intersections are thoughtfully incorporated into the designs, and that BPAC is consulted on these intersection designs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about our recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Clever". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a distinct "C".

Dan Clever, Chair

cc: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager
Kathryn R. Kalb, Director of Public Works
Edward R. Venable, Manager of Engineering and Stormwater Services
Mark Ahrendsen, Transportation Manager, City of Durham
Dale McKeel, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, City of Durham/DCHC MPO