



D U R H A M

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

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

June 20, 2008

The Honorable Larry Hall
NC House of Representatives
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 417B
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Subject: House Bill 2408

Dear Rep. Hall,

The Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) serves as an advisory body to the Durham City Council and the Durham Board of County Commissioners and makes recommendations regarding bicycle and pedestrian use. BPAC respectfully requests that you vote against House Bill 2408 (the companion to Senate Bill 1695) which reduces limitations for boat trailers in excess of 102 inches and authorizes 18-year-olds holding a Class C license to operate vehicles pulling boat trailers as heavy as 26,000 pounds.

BPAC is very concerned that allowing these legislative changes will result in injuries and fatalities to pedestrians and bicyclists on our roadways. It is already hazardous to walk and bike on roads that have heavy boat trailer use. For the Triangle that includes areas around Falls Lake and Jordan Lake. To allow even wider boat trailers will result in very dangerous conditions. Also, to allow these wider trailers to be driven by persons who are not qualified to tow them sets the stage for fatal collisions between walkers and cyclists.

As you are aware numerous benefits result from the active bicycle and pedestrian use by enhancing the health, well being and quality of life for our citizens and promoting community investment, economic growth and development. Also with the rapidly increasing cost of gas we need to be encouraging people to walk and cycle. Passage of House Bill 2408 will discourage the use of our roadways for alternative forms of transportation at a time when we should be encouraging it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Clever
Chair, Durham BPAC