



D U R H A M

## Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Durham City-County Planning Department ■ 101 City Hall Plaza ■ Durham, NC 27701

Phillip Barron  
Diane Daniel  
Alan Dippy  
Heather Fisher  
Robert Glenn  
Tim Griffin  
Sam Hummel  
Judy Martell  
Chris Mankoff  
Phillip D. McHugh  
Pete Schubert  
Caleb Southern

Norman Y. Mineta  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

March 15, 2006

Dear Mr. Mineta,

We, the Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (DBPAC), strongly urge your support of the TTA rail system. Our commission members are citizens appointed by Durham City and County to advise those entities on bicycle and pedestrian issues. We also collaborate with other bicycle and pedestrian groups in the region and review regional transportation plans. DBPAC has been an active local participant in the planning and review process of TTA's proposed rail stations in Durham. DBPAC believes that the proposed TTA rail system will produce a significant increase in citizens who choose to walk or bike to their destinations.

Please consider the impact that space for bikes on rail cars will have on ridership. By 2030, it is estimated that nearly 43,000 people will live within a half mile of the proposed rail stations, and that 109,000 people will work within that same area. According to the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, a half mile is the average distance that most people would walk to and from a station. The average biker will ride at least two miles within the area of a station. This widely increases the potential service, or catchment, area, which would produce many more riders for the system. Having the option to ride to and from a rail car will also promote more bike transit amongst those who live 5 or more miles from their workplace.

A successful rail system depends on the ability of its users to safely and efficiently walk or bike from the rail stops to their end destinations (e.g., workplace, home, or business). DBPAC is working to ensure that this infrastructure is in place by prioritizing bicycle and pedestrian facilities that connect proposed rail stations to the surrounding community. We are currently updating Durham's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans, and these plans will place a high priority on connectivity to the TTA rail stations. DBPAC has also recommended to TTA that space for bicycles be provided on the rail cars during peak hours.

Pedestrian and bike friendly development has already occurred in anticipation of the rail system. The brand new apartment complex Station 9 is within walking distance of the proposed 9th St. Station. The American Tobacco Complex is a bustling workplace and nightlife destination near the Downtown Durham proposed rail

station. Furthermore, a new pedestrian bridge is planned near the North Carolina Central University station, and existing and planned bike lanes in RTP will provide convenient access for bike commuters to the RTP stations. The efforts of Durham's citizens, developers, and government clearly demonstrate the community's enthusiasm for a walking and biking community. The TTA rail stations will not be ignored in Durham but will become a vital asset to the community.

We believe that -- with the TTA rail system -- Durham will become a model city for transportation. Durham has the citizen interest, the development interest, and the future vision to make the TTA rail system a success. The citizens of Durham need the TTA rail system to provide the missing link.

Thank you for considering the benefits of the TTA Rail System. Please contact us if you would like more information on Durham's innovative bike and pedestrian planning.

Sincerely,

Heather Fisher  
DBPAC Chairperson

CC:

Tom Norman, NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation  
Juanita Shearer-Swink, Triangle Transit Authority  
Senator Elizabeth Dole, U.S. Senate  
Senator Richard Burr, U.S. Senate  
Representative Howard Coble, U.S. House of Representatives  
Representative Bob Etheridge, U.S. House of Representatives  
Representative Brad Miller, U.S. House of Representatives  
Representative David Price, U.S. House of Representatives  
Representative Paul Luebke (District 30), NC House of Representatives  
Representative Henry M. Michaux, Jr., NC House of Representatives  
Representative Paul Miller, NC House of Representatives  
Representative W. A. Wilkins, NC House of Representatives  
Senator Bob Atwater, NC Senate  
Senator Jeanne Hopkins Lucas, NC Senate  
Mayor William V. Bell, City of Durham, NC  
Cora Cole-McFadden, Durham City Council  
Eugene A. Brown, Durham City Council  
Diane Catotti, Durham City Council  
Howard Clement, III, Durham City Council  
Thomas Stith, III, Durham City Council  
Mike Woodard, Durham City Council  
Chairperson Ellen W. Reckhow, Durham County Commissioners  
Vice Chairperson Becky M. Heron, Durham County Commissioners  
Lewis A. Cheek, Durham County Commissioners  
Philip R. Cousin, Jr., Durham County Commissioners  
Michael D. Page, Durham County Commissioners  
Ed Johnson, Director of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization