



Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission



November 18th, 2005

Mark Greenspan, Director
General Services
2011 Fay Street
Durham, NC 27704

Mr. Greenspan,

On behalf of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission I am writing to request that the City install bicycle parking facilities in the commercial district of Ninth Street.

Because of the dense urban design of its surrounding neighborhoods and its proximity to Duke University, Ninth Street is a popular destination for Durham's cycling community. There is hardly a time of day when there is no bicycle -- parked or moving -- in sight.

However, there currently are no bicycle parking facilities.

The absence of adequate parking facilities encourages bad bicycle parking practices. Store owners have encouraged me to lock my bicycle to fire hydrants, newspaper stands, street signs, and telephone poles -- none of which are acceptable bike parking solutions.

I realize that parking space is a precious commodity on Ninth Street. With an acceptable design, however, bicycle racks could be placed on the west side of the street -- on either side of the pedestrian sidewalk.

For bicycle rack design solutions, I invite you to take a look at two different resources.

First, I invite you to look at the suggestions offered by Steve Goodridge of the North Carolina Coalition for Bicycle Driving. On this website, he summarizes the issues of safety, security, and access with which cyclists are concerned.

<http://www.humantransport.org/bicycledriving/library/parking/parkingcommercial.htm>

Second, I invite you to look at the simple post-and-ring design that the City of Toronto uses for its bicycle racks. (<http://www.toronto.ca/cycling/postandring.htm>) This design accommodates any bicycle (traditional, recumbents, and tandems) and can be used with any style lock (U-lock, cable, or chain). The post-and-ring bike racks occupy minimal real-estate on the sidewalk and can be placed just about anywhere.

Ideally, future provisions for a covered bicycle parking facility could also be made.

Thank you for your consideration, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission looks forward to hearing from you.

Phillip Barron
member, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
<http://www.bikewalkdurham.org>
pbarron@gmail.com