



Durham Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Durham Department of Transportation • 101 City Hall Plaza • Durham, NC 27701

January 18, 2017

Durham City Council
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Durham Board of County Commissioners
200 East Main Street
Durham, NC 27701

Dear Mayor Bell and Members of the City Council, and Chair Jacobs and Members of the Durham Board of County Commissioners:

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) is a fantastic opportunity to envision the bicycle and pedestrian network of the future in Durham. While the time horizon for this plan is 30+ years into the future and there is no fiscal constraint applied to the CTP, it is hugely important to ensure that this plan reflects Durham's preferred future network; this plan should, in effect, function as a blueprint for a comprehensive, cohesive, and comfortable network that supports the option to safely bike and walk to any destination in the County.

With this in mind, the Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) reviewed this plan in detail and would like to provide both general and specific comments for your, and the Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization's review. Our general comments are as follows:

- In the bicycle and pedestrian project tables, the BPAC would like to see a baseline 5' bicycle lane rather than a 4' bicycle lane. Five foot bicycle lanes provide greater comfort and safety for bicyclists and are the standard width for most bicycle lanes across the City of Durham.
- On all County roads of 45 mph speed limits or greater, the BPAC would like to see some level of bicycle amenity, e.g. bikes lanes or paved shoulders, as opposed to wide outside lanes. High speed rural roads are particularly dangerous for bicyclists as any bicycle-vehicle crashes are likely to result in a serious injury or death to the bicyclist. Providing dedicated space for bicyclists would result in a much safer environment for both bicyclists and vehicles.
- In relation to the previous point, the BPAC would like to eliminate cross-sections 4C and 5A from use in the DCHC MPO CTP. These cross-sections allow wide outside lanes (4C) and program five-lane sections of road, which present conflicts with turning movements for bicycles and are difficult to cross for pedestrians (5A).
- At the edge of urban areas, the BPAC views bicycle lanes as a more appropriate treatment on some of the routes that are currently listed as paved shoulder and requests appropriate routes be changed from "paved shoulder" to "bicycle lane."
- Finally, the BPAC would like to see a partnership between the City of Durham and Durham County to build and maintain sidewalks in areas outside of the city limits. Currently many streets at the edges of the urban area meander in and out of the city limits. With recently enacted changes to annexation laws, many areas are not likely to become part of the city anytime soon. This partnership will help to ensure that gaps near schools and other destinations can be closed.

In addition to these general comments, the BPAC has identified specific project needs, including the following subset. Other specific comments will be provided by City of Durham staff.

- Bike lanes on Slater Road between Emperor Boulevard and the Wake Co. line.
- Bike lanes on Randolph Road between Pickett Road and Erwin Road.
- Bike lanes or paved shoulders on Cornwallis Road between Erwin Road and the Orange Co. line.
- Bike lanes on Fifteenth Street between Erwin Road and Main Street.
- If Pickett Road between Trinity School and Erwin Road is closed to motor vehicle traffic, the current bike lane designation should be replaced with a multi-use path designation.
- Multi-use path connecting Main Street and Duke University Campus utilizing the railroad spur and bridge over NC 147 that is no longer used for rail deliveries to the University.
- Add existing and proposed bike lanes that are part of the Del Webb development in Durham.

BPAC appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the CTP and appreciates your consideration of our comments. We look forward to continuing our productive discussions with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Bushell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Max Bushell
Chair, Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Cc: Andy Henry, DCHC MPO Senior Transportation Planner
Dale McKeel, DCHC MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Bryan Poole, City of Durham Transportation Planner II, Bicycle and Pedestrian