

CTP – Amendment #2 (Briggs Av Ext)

Compilation of Public Comments (December 1, 2020)

Introduction

The DCHC MPO released Amendment #2 to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for public comment in on November 4, 2020. Amendment #2 proposes to delete the Briggs Avenue Extension (between E. Pettigrew Street and Angier Avenue) from the CTP highway table and map. The public comment period ends officially on December 10, 2020.

Comments

The text and letter below are the full written comments that the MPOs received through email. The comments are separated by a dashed line.

I favor the proposal to delete the Briggs Avenue extension. Mention was made of the difficulty in securing permission to make a new crossing of the CSX tracks just south of Riddle Rd. This rail line could one day become an opportunity for Durham and for the Triangle area. Known as the Durham & Southern Railway from 1906 to 1979, these tracks today support a single, small freight train each weekday between Apex and east Durham. CSX may someday decide that this shortline is unprofitable and then file to abandon it. Durham and Durham County should collaborate with Cary, Apex, and Wake County (and our MPO's) to write a plan to federally railbank this corridor if abandonment happens. The 100' right-of-way has great potential for both a rail-trail and for commuter/light rail.

Paths to the future,

Dave.

Dear Mr. Henry,

I am writing to encourage the City of Durham to REMOVE the S. Briggs Extension from all future planning and development. As noted in the reasoning on the website, Hickory Nut Drive is now in the middle of a neighborhood, and a community pool and mailbox station are situated along the proposed route. Children ride their bikes along Hickory Nut Drive and it has become the road where families walk and greet each other during the afternoon and evening hours.

Thank you for your time and for submitting this email to all necessary committee members who will be voting on this.

Respectfully,
Camille Hamlet



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November 25, 2020

VIA E-MAIL: andrew.henry@durhamnc.gov

Mr. Andrew Henry
Principal Planner
Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO)
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

RE: Comments regarding Amendment #2 to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), Deletion of Briggs Avenue Extension (South)

Dear Mr. Henry:

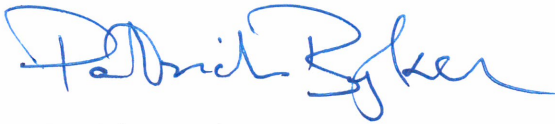
At the outset, we wish to thank you for your kind assistance with this pending amendment to the CTP. We represent The Building Center, Inc., which is an outstanding, customer-focused, North Carolina-based lumber and building supply company. The Building Center currently has six locations, four in North Carolina and two in South Carolina, and hopes to open its seventh facility here in Durham. To that end, our team identified a site zoned Industrial Light with a Development Plan (IL(D)) near the intersection of Riddle Road and Briggs Avenue.

While the IL zoning district is perfect for The Building Center to construct its Durham location, we were perplexed and dismayed by the site's development plan requirement to construct a section of Briggs Avenue that would have to be grade-separated from the railroad tracks, cross another person's private property, and then connect this industrial site to a relatively new residential neighborhood to the south. Aside from being financially impossible for The Building Center, the Briggs Avenue Extension to the south appeared to us to be bad public policy. Accordingly, we reached out to the City of Durham administration to request this Amendment to the CTP to delete this section of Briggs Avenue, and we appreciate this opportunity to submit our comments that we think are congruent with the DCHC MPO's perspective on this Amendment.

Moreover, it is important to state on the record what benefits The Building Center will bring to this southeastern section of Durham. The Building Center anticipates investing approximately \$6.5 million to build its Durham location, and we expect the job creation during the first phase to be 25-35 new jobs. At full build-out, The Building Center expects to employ between 140 and 150 people, with average wages among all employees to be around \$46,000 to \$48,000. At this juncture, we expect the starting annual wages will be approximately \$40,000, with no college degree required. Accordingly, these are the types of living-wage employment opportunities Durham needs, and the only barrier to this project moving forward with its necessary building permits is the approval of this CTP Amendment. Therefore, we hope the DCHC MPO will move forward with approval of Amendment #2 at its December 9, 2020 meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, we trust that you will contact us, and again we appreciate your work on this amendment.

Very truly yours,



Patrick L. Byker

cc: Skip Norris, President, The Building Company, Inc.
Dan Jewell, President, Coulter Jewell Thames, P.A.