

# **ATTACHMENT 7**

# **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**



From: Sarah McIntee [smcintee@nc.rr.com]

Sent: Monday, September 13, 2004 12:33 PM

To: Cathy Andrews

Cc: Bill Blankenship; Bill Webster; Blair Pollock; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Catherine Lazorko; Cathy

Andrews; Chris Berndt; David Bonk; Flo Miller; Gordon Sutherland; Roger Waldon; Scott Cantrell;

Sheryl Sherman

Subject: Re: Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan ~ Public Hearing ~ September 20, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Somebody please start considering the comfort of pedestrians in addition to their safety. If you want people to walk to work: make it a more pleasant experience, in addition to a safe one. Noise and heat are two factors that we usually don't have to deal with inside of a car, but people don't like walking if you feel assaulted by noise and uncomfortable weather.

For example, we need noise and sound barriers for pedestrians. Last week, because of landscape equipment, I couldn't hear what the person yelling beside me was saying while we stood at the bus stop on Caswell. I would guess that is was louder than being on the tarmac at an airport. I had to cover my ears. The trucks and cars make their own din which has always been unacceptable, but the landscape equipment doesn't have to be used. Don't you remember? We used to cut grass and rake leaves in more quiet ways, without the 2 cycle engine.

I am about to go out to get some Bose noise cancelling headphones for \$300. I already bought my husband a pair even though he doesn't for safety reasons, want to wear them while he is running to the bus stop on 54. Incidentally it is a fact that your hearing is more vulnerable to damage if you are exercising near noise.

Perhaps, there should also be a sound control plan for Chapel Hill?

My husband, who has been running along Chapel HIII streets for 20 years (and was refererred to by a journalist in the Herald last Sunday as her "greatest commuter hero", is now going deaf.

I really think that those of us who have been using the sidewalks and bikeways for 20 years deserve better treatment than we get in Chapel Hill.

We have even considered moving because of the noisy environment here. And it isn't even leaf blower season yet.

Did you know that audiologist advise landscapers using equipment and being around equipment to protect their hearing with ear blocker headphone style, AND ear plugs.

Additionally, shade for pedestrians is another important issue that is not being addressed. Are we expected to walk in the sun on black asphalt and get heat stroke? Skin cancer? What about making it more comfortable for people to walk places.

Heat and noise should be considered right up their with the safety of children walking to school. Bus stops should be set back far enough and turned 90 degrees so they are not acting like and acoustic shell in from on the street traffic. You also are a target for being splashed by passing cars in the rain.



It seems so unfair that millions of dollars are spent to accommodate poisoning and noisy cars and trucks, where pedestrians and cyclists are always considered last, if at all. It is not fair. It is certainly not equal treatment.

Sarah McIntee

t 11:50 AM 9/13/2004, Cathy Andrews wrote:

Hi all.

I apologize if some of you receive duplicates of this notice, but many people are on more than one listsery for boards and committees.

# **Town Of Chapel Hill**

Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan Public Hearing Monday, September 20, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Town Hall, 306 N. Columbia Street.

The Chapel Hill Town Council will hold a public hearing Monday, September 20, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall, 306 N. Columbia Street on a Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan. The Action Plan would create a network of bikeways and sidewalks that serves citizens' needs, especially for travel to employment centers, commercial districts, transit stops, institutions, and recreational destinations.

The public hearing will provide an opportunity for citizens to share their comments on the proposed facilities, priorities and actions contained in the Draft Plan.

The action plan is a long range plan. It could become a component of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Plan implementation could be incorporated in the Town's Capital Improvements Program process.

For further information visit <a href="www.townofchapelhill.org/planning">www.townofchapelhill.org/planning</a> or contact Gordon Sutherland of the Planning Department at (919) 968 2728 or e-mail <a href="gsutherland@townofchapelhill.org">gsutherland@townofchapelhill.org</a>

Cathy H. Andrews Office Manager Planning Department Town of Chapel Hill

Phone: 919.968.2728 ext. 350

Fax: 919.969.2014

www.townofchapelhill.org/planning



From: Sarah McIntee [smcintee@nc.rr.com]

Sent: Monday, September 13, 2004 11:58 AM

To: Gordon Sutherland

Subject: Sidewalk plan

Could somebody tell me the reason that Caswell Road is slated to get a sidewalk?

I just don't see the need as pressing as other locations.

Another bad spot is on Hillborough Rd between the bus stop and the Foster's Market shopping center. You have to cross the street when there are blind curves on either side. If I was deaf, I might be dead try to cross there. Why is it that there are no sidewalks every where that we have a bus stop? Estes Drive across from the mall is another place. You either have to cross where there is no sidewalk or walk through the mud from the corner?

Sarah McIntee



From:

Ben Hitchings [benh@tjcog.org]

Sent:

Monday, September 13, 2004 12:28 PM

To:

Gordon Sutherland

Subject:

Bike-Ped Plan

Hi Gordon,

Hope you had a good summer.

I just received an email announcement for the public hearing on the 20th on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. I wanted to let you know about a related project that we're doing and ask for your guidance on follow-up.

We're working with the Orange County Health Department and the Orange County Council on Aging to conduct an assessment of pedestrian and bicycle facilities around the planned new Senior Center on Homestead Road next to the existing Southern Orange Human Services Center. This is part of a larger initiative to promote senior-friendly communities in the Triangle.

Early next year, a team of senior citizens and others will examine the existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities around the planned Senior Center and make recommendations on additional facilities to improve the design of the facility and improve the connections with surrounding destinations, such

as Homestead Community Park. This fall, we will be conducting a mini plan review to help the Active Seniors Project Team understand what the plans are for bike and ped facilities in this area. One concern that has been expressed already is the challenge of crossing Homestead Road to get to the park.

What do you think would be an appropriate interface between this project and the Bike/Ped Plan? It looks like the Town Council will probably adopt the Bike-Ped Plan before the Active Seniors Project Team has conducted its assessment. Would it be helpful to at least note the planned construction of the Senior Center and the importance of connecting it to surrounding destinations? What do you think? I had trouble downloading the draft Bike-Ped plan from the website (I got a message that it was damaged), so I'm not sure what it includes already. Could you email me a copy of it in PDF?

Thanks, Ben

Ben Hitchings, AICP Land Use Program Manager Triangle J Council of Governments P.O. Box 12276 Research Triangle Park NC 27709

Phone: 919/558-9397; Fax: 919/549-9390

Email: benh@tjcog.org

Website: www.tjcog.dst.nc.us



From: Denise.Nelson@dpsnc.net

**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2004 11:14 AM

To: Gordon Sutherland

Subject: Town of Chapel Hill Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Action

Attachments: Image.20\_\_=0ABBE466DFD7E0988f9e8a93df938@us.ibm.com.gif;

Image.20\_=0ABBE466DFD7E0988f9e8a93df938@us.ibm.com.gif; Image.20\_=0ABBE466DFD7E0988f9e8a93df938@us.ibm.com.gif; Image.20\_=0ABBE466DFD7E0988f9e8a93df938@us.ibm.com.gif; Image.20\_=0ABBE466DFD7E0988f9e8a93df938@us.ibm.com.gif; Image.20\_=0ABBE466DFD7E0988f9e8a93df938@us.ibm.com.gif

To: G. Sutherland

Subject: Bicycle and Pedestrian Paths/Sidewalks

I strongly support the town plan for new sidewalks and paths in my neighborhood, especially the following:

- sidewalk on south side of Culbreth Road, connecting the existing sidewalks from Kent Woodlands to Cobble Ridge
- greenway connector from across Cobble Ridge entryway, straight to Frank Porter Graham Elementary School and Morgan Creek Greenway

I encourage these activities by the Town in these areas.

Thank you for your attention.

Denise Nelson

101 Rossburn Way

Chapel Hill, NC 27516



From: Bobbi Hapgood [bobbi\_hapgood@med.unc.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2004 2:59 PM

To: Bill Webster

Cc: Gordon Sutherland; 'Matt Hapgood'

Subject: RE: Battle Branch Trail and the Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan

#### Bill -

Thank you for the email. I was surprised to see in the "Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan" language related to the Battle Branch Greenway Trail that suggest paving the trail. It seems particularly odd given the rather vocal opposition to this idea at the Greenways Commission meeting last spring. Were the comments made by the many people who attended the Greenway Commission Meeting shared with the other Commissions overseeing Battle Branch Greenway Trail? If not, are these comments still public record and will they be shared with all during this process?

Wording in the document that concerns me:

# "Battle Branch Greenway Trail

The existing unpaved Battle Branch Greenway Trail connects UNC Campus and Downtown with The Community Center Park and also Estes Drive/ University Mall. The provision of a hard surfaced off road path within the corridor of the Battle Branch Greenway Trail could provide an off road alternative for cyclists which would by-pass Franklin Street, Fordham Boulevard and Raleigh Road. The provision of a path here suitable for cyclists would be a desirable addition to this plan."

Just to reiterate my concerns and the concerns of so many who took the time to attend the Greenway Commission meeting – paving the Battle Branch Greenway seems a waste of money and detrimental to the quality of the trail. It is an asset to walk on a seemingly natural trail in the middle of downtown. Instead of using money on retrofitting the trail to accommodate road bikes, the town should move forward on making all streets safe for bicycle use.

Thank you, Bobbi Hapgood

Bobbi Hapgood
Development & Communications Director
Center for Child & Family Health
3518 Westgate Drive, Suite 100
Durham, NC 27707

Tel: (919) 419-3474 ext. 262

Fax: (919) 419-9353

bobbi\_hapgood@med.unc.edu



Sarah McIntee [smcintee@nc.rr.com] From:

Wednesday, August 18, 2004 10:04 PM Sent:

Gordon Sutherland To:

helenmotta@nc.rr.com; mccarty@email.unc.edu; m.kinkaid@tfgi.com; Jeremy@energy.unc.edu; Cc:

jer lostinsweden@hotmail.com; stelljes@email.unc.edu; jgrimmer@manofarm.com;

shaff@nc.rr.com; dapahome@nc.rr.com; dennis markatos@hotmail.com; surgenc@yahoo.com; lbroome@email.unc.edu; robinhd@nc.rr.com; SuzyLRN@aol.com; leslie zeldin@dentistry.unc.edu;

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tnorman@dot.state.nc.us; katrivedi@dot.state.nc.us; mmills@dot.state.nc.us; Chris Berndt; Heidi Perry; Wayne Pein; Alice Neebe; Brian Decker; Claire Millar; Diane VandenBroek; Jed Dube; Jim Ward; Kate Millard; Mary Ann Freedman; Nancy Milio; Rich Killingsworth; Terry Blalock; Tim

Saunders

Subject: Re: Town of Chapel Hill Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan, Review Schedule for Advisory

Boards and Commissions.

Dear Planners, thank you for send me the plans. Sally McIntee has some comments

Praise: Thanks for putting the sidewalk segment on 15-501 between Elliot and Willow. I REALLY appreciate it. A little more landscaping and lights would make walking along a highway a bit more pleasant.

On sidewalk priorities, I have some suggestions:

1. AGREE I very much agree the Estes Drive Extension, Ephesus Ch Rd, Legion Road, and the segments on Airport yet to have sidewalks should be done ASAP as they are well traveled and bikes and peds are in danger.

ADDITION: Old Durham Road should be on your list for a bikeway (preferably on the school side). ESTES also should be added.

LIGHTING OF SIDEWALKS NEAR INTERSECTIONs: Better lighting on sidewalks/bikeways, especially near intersections. Bikes and runners popping out of the darkness is quite startling. These areas, especially near the intersections of the main roads need be better lit. One of my sons was hit on Estes/Airport intersection at twilight.



LANDSCAPE FOR NOISE AND SHADE Better Landscaping along walks is needed. Landscaping with small trees between street and walks adds shade and helps with the sound and exhaust smells. Folks also need frequent reminders to maintain the shrubs/plantings alot their property beside the sidewalks. I often carry pruning shears now, in case I need to bushwak my way through. There are some owners, like along Lakeshore, don't seem to have enough vegetation on their adjoining banks and the sidewalk is flooded with mud all the time.

2. I am not sure why Caswell is on the list for a sidewalk as I live there and watch the kids walk to and from school. The only segments of Caswell Road that have problems are areas where people visiting Estes School park their cars, near the light (actually where the double line is, they shouldn't be parking, but they do anyway.) a sidewalk extending down 1-2 lots is ALL that is needed there, otherwise the road is usually wide enough for most pedestrians. I do not know if the other end of the street is a problem as I don't travel there much. I would rather see more money go into the other improvements I am mentioning.

Estes Drive NEEDS MORE ATTENTION in several spots: Please make walkways more complete on BOTH SIDES and landscaped for noise control (and also to discourage kids from crossing Estes where there is no guard; a few strategically placed barberry and Buford holly bushes could do alot to keep kids safer). Cleaning up the creek area across from the mall and putting a lit bikeway on that side would be nice a very nice feature. People like being around water. There are also bus stops on that side along with an unpaved beaten path.

3. Related to Caswell Rd. and Bolin Creek Trail There is a trail going along the sewer line that everybody uses to get to the Bolin Creek Trail. It was there 28 years ago and it is still there. However, I don't think the path is official, nor is it optimally maintained. A problem spot is a steep path down from Caswell which is suffering from erosion. I am firmly of the opinion that if people are beating their own trail, there should be a sidewalk or maintained trail there especiall something to control the erosion on the banks

Praise: I really appreciate the improvements to the library trail from the Halifax Road/Granville extension. I use it to go to the library alot.

Important Noise considerations: I have measured the sounds on the sidewalks of the main roads and noises range from 30 to 90 db, like on Estes, Airport, and !5-501. When you do these trails and sidewalks, please think of ways of buffering the noise, with low bush and small tree plantings. Many times I choose not to travel on a main road because it is just too noisy.

Really bad exhaust pollution spots for bikes and peds are the segments along Airport that go up hill. I actually stopped to cough and get my breath after being smoked by trucks and cars puffing up hill at rush hour. It was so bad that I no longer ride my bike on Airport during rush hour.

While I am making a wish list, I would also like to see a pedestrian/bike bridge to fill in the valley on Airport Road and cross over the intersection as exhaust sinks to the bottom of the valley during rush hour. An alternative is to make the bikeways further from the road wherever possible.

I would like to see a bikeway to Durham that is safe. For example 54 is not passable between I-40 and 751, and riding along Old Durham Road is also not very safe for bikes. If we want to hook up with the bike way along Martin Luther King in Durham, Old Durham Road is a good way.

Thanks for including us in getting comments. Both of my boys (now in college) survived being hit by cars while on their bikes on Estes Drive. I have had several close calls as a pedestrian. Especially watch



out for folks turning the corners while talking on their cell phones, they almost never see the pedestrian about to cross with the light. This is a new hazard.

Be safe, Sally McIntee

At 02:07 PM 8/18/2004, Gordon Sutherland wrote:

For your information as a person who has expressed an interest in or participated in the preparation of the Town of Chapel Hill Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan.

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004 the Town Council of the Town of Chapel Hill received and referred the Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan to Town Advisory Boards and Commissions for review and comments. The Town Council also called a public hearing for September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004 on the Draft Plan.

Below is a link to the Plan web page which includes a schedule of meetings for Advisory Boards and Commissions in case you wish to attend.

http://townhall.townofchapelhill.org/planning/bikeped/BikePedPlan.htm

My apologies if you get this message more than once.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you

Gordon Sutherland, MRTPI, AICP

Principal Long Range Planner

Town of Chapel Hill

306 N. Columbia Street

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Phone: (919) 968-2728 ext. 353

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E-mail: gsutherland@townofchapelhill.org

Web: www.townofchapelhill.org



97

From: Sent:

Lissa Broome [Ibroome@email.unc.edu] Thursday, August 19, 2004 7:14 AM

To:

Gordon Sutherland; Bill Webster

Subject:

Re: Town of Chapel Hill Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan, Review Schedule for

Advisory Boards and Commissions.

Dear Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Webster -- Thanks to you both for forwarding this plan to me. I was extremely impressed with the plan and particularly glad to see that page 17 of it includes as a crossing improvement a footbridge across Morgan Creek at Ashe Place. I have made a note of the public hearing and possible consideration by the town council. If I have neighbors who are also interested in seeing a footbridge and bike bridge across Morgan Creek at Ashe Place, would it be helpful to have them email one of you to express their support for the project?

Thanks again.

Lissa Broome

Lissa L. Broome

Wachovia Term Professor of Banking Law Director, Center for Banking and Finance University of North Carolina School of Law CB # 3380 Van Hecke-Wettach Hall Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3380

Ph: 919-962-7066 Fx: 919-962-1277



From: Keith Silva [ksilva@us.ibm.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2004 7:46 AM

To: Gordon Sutherland

Subject: Re: Town of Chapel Hill Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan

Mr. Sutherland,

Thank you for identifying your website containing information about the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan. I am a resident of Cobble Ridge so am interested in your plans in the Culbreth Road area.

I would like to express my support for the plans in place along Culbreth Road, specifically:

(1) new sidewalk on south side of Culbreth Road, from Kent Woodlands to Cobble Ridge

(2) Morgan Creek Greenway segment from Culbreth Road to Frank Porter Graham Elementary School area

(3) new sidewalk on north side of Culbreth Road, across from Cobble Ridge and Culbreth subdivisions

I support the completion of these programs on a Top Priority basis.

Thank you, Keith

Keith Silva ksilva@us.ibm.com 103 Nuttree Lane Chapel Hill, NC 27516 (919) 967-4423

99

From:

Chris Berndt

Sent:

Wednesday, September 15, 2004 10:19 AM

To:

Gordon Sutherland

Subject:

FW: Citizen Comment RE: Battle Park Woods

----Original Message----

From: Roger Waldon

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2004 4:20 PM

To: Chris Berndt

Subject: FW: Citizen Comment RE: Battle Park Woods

FYI

Roger

----Original Message----

From: Carol Abernethy On Behalf Of Cal Horton Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2004 4:01 PM

To: 'Steven Moore'

Cc: Roger Waldon; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Toni Pendergraph; Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk; Ed Harrison; 'Edith Wiggins'; 'Jim Ward'; Jim Ward (w); Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt; Sally

Greene (w)

Subject: Citizen Comment RE: Battle Park Woods

A copy of your email message has been forwarded to each Council Member.

Carol Abernethy

Exec. Asst., Manager's Office

Town of Chapel Hill

----Original Message----

From: Steven Moore [mailto:smoore@nccu.edu] Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2004 12:39 PM

To: Town Council Cc: und@law.duke.edu Subject: Battle Park Woods

Some time ago, a community hearing was held in regard to Battle Park Woods and the possible addition of a paved path. The room was packed with neighbors and the almost unanimous feeling from the neighbors of Battle Park Woods was to leave it as natural as possible, while keeping it neat and clean. A PAVED BIKE PATH WAS OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSED. Everyone there throught the matter was dead, but now word arrives that the Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan includes the provision for a paved bike path. Either the whole public hearing process was a sham or something untoward is being attempted. Needless to say, the neighbors and prime users of the area and pathways in the Woods are overwhelmingly opposed to paving a path through the woods and all of the inherent problems such a travesty would entail.

For the good of all the people who live and use the Woods and the future esidents of the area who will only have the woods if they are saved - Save Battle Park Woods!!!

Steve Moore 913 Roosevelt Drive



From:

Chris Berndt

Sent:

Wednesday, September 15, 2004 10:19 AM

To:

Gordon Sutherland

Subject:

FW: Citizen Comment RE: Battle Woods

----Original Message----

From: Roger Waldon

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2004 12:55 PM

To: Chris Berndt

Subject: FW: Citizen Comment RE: Battle Woods

FYI

#### Roger

----Original Message----

From: Carol Abernethy On Behalf Of Cal Horton Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2004 11:50 AM

To: 'Dale Purves'

Cc: Roger Waldon; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Toni Pendergraph; Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk; Ed Harrison; 'Edith Wiggins'; 'Jim Ward'; Jim Ward (w); Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt; Sally Greene (w)

Subject: Citizen Comment RE: Battle Woods

A copy of your email message has been forwarded to each Council Member.

Carol Abernethy

Exec. Asst., Manager's Office

Town of Chapel Hill

----Original Message----

From: Dale Purves [mailto:purves@neuro.duke.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2004 9:06 AM

To: Town Council Cc: und@law.duke.edu Subject: Battle Woods

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I am writing to express my very strong opposition to a paved "transportation" corridor where the natural trail now runs through Battle Woods. We live close enough to Battle Woods to walk this beautiful path several times a year. Despoiling it with a paved bike road would ruin one of Chapel Hill's greatest assets. I hope you will reject this unwise proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Dale Purves

\_\_\_

Dale Purves, M.D.

Director, Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, Levine Sciences Research Center (Rm B203) Box 90999 Duke University Durham NC 27708

email =purves@neuro.duke.edu

phone =919-684-6122

fax=919-681-0815

website=

http://www.purveslab.net



September 7, 2004 100 Gary Road Carrboro, N.C. 27510 919-967-7747 pday@email.unc.edu

Dear Mr. Sutherland,

I have been looking over the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan and am disturbed that there is no mention of connecting N. Greensboro St. to Airport Road. There is a sidewalk being proposed for part from N. Greensboro to about the railroad tracks, and that is well and good, but a bicycle path or lanes that could accommodate pedestrians on this vital traffic artery appears to me to be needed much more. Besides connecting the bike lanes of Carrboro to Chapel Hills' it could be expanded onto Seawell School Road and would enable students to be able to safely cycle or walk to Smith, Seawell, or Chapel Hill High.

I know there are houses almost right up to N.Greensboro, but they could be bypassed by a bike lane skirting through Wilson Park and coming out at the railroad tracks.

Please contact me at our earliest convenience with any information you may have as to why this needed bikeway has not be included in this plan.

Thank-you for your time,