

CARR
Citizen Action for Responsible Roads
126 Kingston Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-933-5966

3a(8)

March 25, 2002

Mayor and Council
Town of Chapel Hill
306 N. Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Mayor Foy and council members Bateman, Evans, Harrison, Kleinschmidt, Strom, Verkerk, Ward, and Wiggins:

Citizen Action for Responsible Roads (CARR) strongly supports the Westwood Neighborhood Association and Westside Neighborhood Association in their efforts to minimize unnecessary widening of South Columbia Street. We agree that South Columbia needs bicycle lanes, pedestrian walkways, curb, gutter and appropriate turn lanes, but that transforming South Columbia into a five-lane highway is not in the best interests of these neighborhoods, the town, the University of North Carolina, or the fiscal health of the state.

Under the leadership of the late Michael Hooker, the university took an inspiring, leading role to preserve the character of this road and keep South Columbia from being widened to five lanes. Chancellor Hooker's special assistant, Jonathan Howes, and former mayor Rosemary Waldorf successfully lobbied the North Carolina Department of Transportation in 1998 to keep the road from being widened. To their great credit, they were able to put forward a proposal that met the needs of the neighborhoods, the town, the University, and the NC Department of Transportation. Now, four years later, the new chancellor has decided to upset this carefully crafted consensus.

Before advocating that the state create larger problems (including the inevitable fatalities when roads are built to accommodate speeds of 60 MPH or higher), it would be more prudent for Chancellor Moeser to do some research at UNC's own Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center www.pedbikeinfo.org. He could also become familiar with the term "road diets" at www.google.com to get some cutting-edge information that explains why four-lane roads are being reduced to *improve* traffic flow in many areas of the nation.

Sincerely,



Burwell Ware
For the Executive Committee