



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

1501 MAIL SERVICE CENTER, RALEIGH, N.C. 27699-1501

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

April 27, 2001

The Honorable Rosemary I. Waldorf
Mayor of Chapel Hill
306 North Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516

Dear Mayor Waldorf:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the South Columbia Street Project (TIP Project U-624).

The Department of Transportation recognizes the significance of South Columbia Street to the Town of Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina. We also recognize there are several different views on how to improve South Columbia Street. The Department has been working for a number of years with the Town Council and the University to reach consensus on the appropriate improvements to be made to South Columbia Street. Before further planning takes place, the Department asks that the Town, the University, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization discuss this issue further and present the Department with a joint recommendation for South Columbia Street.

According to the Draft 2002-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the South Columbia Street project is scheduled for right of way acquisition in fiscal year 2003, and construction in fiscal year 2005. It is possible the current schedule for this project will be delayed unless agreement is quickly reached on how the project should proceed.

If I can provide you with additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Lyndo Tippet

LT/afr

cc: J. Douglas Galyon, Member, Board of Transportation
Mark Ahrendsen, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Urban Area MPO