

**SUMMARY OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN  
ADVISORY BOARD ACTION**

**Subject:** Meadowmont Bicycle Lanes

**Meeting Date:** June 27, 2006

**Request:** The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board has been asked to respond to a petition to the Town Council by the Meadowmont Community and Hilltop Condominium Associations. The petition requests that the no parking regulations be waved from dawn to dusk on certain sections of West Barbee Rd, Sprunt Streets and Meadowmont Lane in either both or one direction.

**Recommendation:** The Committee recommends against waving the no parking regulations. The terrain of the area results in limited sight distances. The bike lanes are well designed to funnel bicycle traffic from feeder streets onto streets linking the major roads in the neighborhood with bike paths and commonly used routes into town and the UNC campus. Eliminating the bike lanes after dusk removes them at precisely the time when bike accidents are mostly likely to happen (between 5 and 9 pm). Providing bike lanes in only one direction is not a feasible solution. This would encourage people to ride against traffic, which is illegal and unsafe, especially after dark. In addition, consistent efforts by parking control officers would be required to keep the bike lanes free from cars at other times, especially during rush hours which are close to dawn and dusk for much of the year.

Transportation planning in bike-friendly communities means establishing safe routes for people to bike both now and in the future. Though the petition states their opinion that virtually no bicyclists use the lanes during the evening hours or at night, bike/ped committee members sited riders bicycling at dusk even during our limited observations. Regardless, bike lanes are not a "use it or lose it" element of city planning. The bike lanes in the Meadowmont and Hillside communities were designed to anticipate the growth in cycling as a mode of transportation that we are working towards in Chapel Hill. Much thought was put into the design of this neighborhood with input from appropriate Boards, including this one, and we feel the bike lanes are needed and appropriate as they are.

**Vote:** 8-0.

**Aye:** Jed Dube, Audrey de Nazelle, Wendy Sarratt, Tabitha Combs, Dave Love, Brian Decker, Kate Millard and Ray Piplani

**Prepared by:** Brian Decker, Chair, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board  
Gordon Sutherland, Principal Planner

