

March 11, 2004

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

Dear Mayor Foy and Members of Council,

I am writing on behalf of the vestry of the Chapel of the Cross, located at 304 E. Franklin St. The church is interested in making improvements to the street frontage and sidewalks along our property and areas nearby. The existing sidewalk has a number of displaced bricks in it and often presents a tripping hazard to passersby. The curb and gutter in front of the church is in need of repair, and the area immediately in front of the church would benefit from a different design and construction that would facilitate loading and unloading, especially during those times in which parking is allowed (Sunday mornings). There is also a chronic drainage problem at one catch basin that adjoins our driveway entrance, which presents problems for motorists and a splashing hazard for bicyclists and pedestrians who are nearby when a vehicle passes through the standing water.

In addition, we believe the sidewalks along the front of the Planetarium and the tree lawns in the area are in need of maintenance and possible upgrades. Improvements to this area would provide safer walking conditions and greatly improve the appearance of what is otherwise one of the showcase areas of our downtown.

We ask that the Council consider including the area along the south side of East Franklin St., from the point at which last year's Streetscape project ended, to Raleigh St. as a candidate project area for Streetscape improvements. We have discussed this possibility with the Town staff, who advised us that we would need to petition the Council for this to be considered.

The Chapel of the Cross is willing to contribute financially to this project if it could go forward. We believe that the University might also make some kind of contribution for work along their frontage. If the area in question cannot be included as a Streetscape project, then we ask that we be permitted to proceed to effect some of the improvements we desire to our frontage, including installing a brick strip along the curb and improving the groundcover plantings.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions about our petition, please contact me.

Sincerely,


Bert Liverance

700 Kensington Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
929-3355