



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
AT  
CHAPEL HILL

Office of the  
Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
CB# 1000, 300 South Building  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-1000  
(919) 962-3798 FAX: (919) 962-0647

December 20, 2001

W. Calvin Horton, Town Manager  
Town of Chapel Hill  
306 North Columbia Street  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516

Dear Cal:

I am writing with regard to the University's need to identify additional park-and-ride locations in order to implement the Development Plan. The one major transportation corridor for University employees without a park-and-ride facility is the 15-501 corridor from Durham. The University approached the Chapel Hill Bible Church regarding a cooperative arrangement for expansion of their parking lot, to include park-and-ride availability for the University, and learned that the Town of Chapel Hill is interested in a similar arrangement.

As you know, the University and the Town have cooperated on the construction of park-and-ride lots on University property near Friday Center Drive and Old Fayetteville Road (in Carrboro). As the University has come to rely more and more on park-and-ride facilities, the required public access nature of these lots has become problematic. The University needs to be able to assign its students and employees to particular park-and-ride lots, and to control the number of persons eligible to park in each lot by taking enforcement action against unassigned vehicles. This is not possible in our cooperatively-constructed lots as federal regulations require open access. At the Friday Center lot, for example, there is serious overcrowding. Persons who are not given free bus passes from that location simply park there anyway and pay for a bus pass. Then persons assigned to the lot by the University are unable to park. This is creating serious employee relations problems and, with the advent of fare free transit on January 2, 2002, this kind of situation will become more commonplace. Thus, the University desires to construct future park-and-ride lots on its own, foregoing the federal funding in order to achieve more control.

University employees and students are the major users of park-and-ride lots, whether operated by the Town or the University. We have therefore concluded that a cooperative park-and-ride arrangement between the University and the Bible Church would also be advantageous to all parties. Particular advantages are that the University could offer the Bible Church more flexibility in the length of the arrangement and an earlier start date. We believe it would be a win-win-win situation for all three parties. Since the University and the Town have previously partnered in the construction of park-and-ride lots, and since the Town has also expressed an interest in an arrangement with the Bible Church, in the interest of maintaining positive relationships we wanted to inform the Town of the University's intent to pursue a relationship with the Bible Church.

Sincerely,

Nancy D. Suttentfield  
Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration

cc: Brent Clark, Chapel Hill Bible Church