

From: C. William Davis [cwdavis@med.unc.edu]
Sent: Sunday, November 03, 2002 12:08 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: RE: New Hope Bridge

Mayor and Members of Chapel Hill Town Council,

I write asking that you consider a resolution or other appropriate means of supporting the construction of a higher and longer bridge over New Hope Creek between Mt. Moriah and Garrett roads than that presently planned by the NC DOT (see News & Observer, City & State Section, 10/31/02). Such a bridge may be essential to prevent the fragmentation of the New Hope wildlife corridor.

Recent ecological studies have made it increasingly clear that habitat fragmentation brought about by urbanization is responsible for a large part of habitat destruction which depletes wildlife locally and regionally. The minimal bridge currently planned by DOT stands a good chance of acting as a barrier to the free movement of wildlife up and down New Hope Creek between Duke Forest and Jordan Lake. It could/would effectively create two islands of habitat on either side of US 15-501; to my mind, the monetary savings DOT envisions is not worth the ecological risk.

Sincerely,

C. William Davis
1425 Gray Bluff Trail
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
933-6109