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transportation board petition: 3/19/02

Introduction: In order for the people to use public transportation and to reduce their use of motorized vehicles it is important that snow, leaves, branches and other barriers be removed from sidewalks and bikelanes.

T-Board members have noticed over the years that sidewalks in Chapel Hill are often not cleared quickly of snow, that mounds of snow and ice are left at the intersection of sidewalks making the ADA ramps inaccessible, that leaves and branches are left blocking sidewalks, that overhanging branches of trees and hedges block access, that loading/unloading vehicles block sidewalks and construction and athletic event signs block sidewalks.

The T-Board requests that the Council direct staff to determine what current town ordinances exist to maintain access to sidewalks and to describe how the ordinances are enforced. We suggest that private home owners, renters, businesses, schools and others be made aware of their responsibilities. If existing ordinances do not require owners to remove snow and other barriers from their walks, we suggest that a new ordinance be written. We suggest owners (after a warning) be billed by the Town if the town needs to clean up the walk.

We understand from previous communications that damaged crosswalks and bike lane lines are to be replaced within two weeks but continue to see these deadlines pass. How is this policy enforced? Also how frequently are street shoulders, wide outside lanes and bike lanes swept to remove debris? We also request that the town clarify where yard waste (leaves, branches) should be placed: off the sidewalk? not on bike lanes? near the curb?

Loren D. Hunt
Chair T-Board

FYI : This was also presented to
The Bike & Ped Board
at their March Meeting.
I am not sure what
they decided about it but
they did seem also
interested in this
petition.