



D U R H A M
Open Space & Trails Commission

Durham City-County Planning Department ▪ 101 City Hall Plaza ▪ Durham, NC 27701

December 3, 2008

Thomas J. Bonfield
Durham City Manager
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Dear Mr. Bonfield:

The Durham Open Space and Trails Commission (DOST) has taken action that I write to you and make you aware of our disappointment at being bypassed in the design process for Phase E of the American Tobacco Trail (ATT).

In 1982, the city council decided to have a trails and greenways program and created an appointed citizen board to help develop the plan/program as well as to advise the elected boards on all matters with regard to trails, greenways and open space. Since that time the Commission has taken this charge seriously, meeting regularly each month. As the work of DOST is complex, most members belong to one or more sub-committees, which requires more time for DOST members. DOST has been diligent in its work and our work has been well respected.

At our regular November commission meeting, we received a presentation from staff on the trail portion of Phase E of the ATT. However, staff was not, as would be normal, seeking our input and recommendations on the design. We were shocked not only at the fact that we were not being given an opportunity – as is our charge - to comment but also that the presentation did not reference adopted plans.

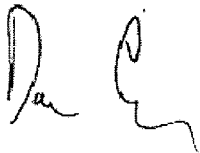
Staff mentioned that public meetings have been held with regard to the trail section of ATT Phase E. DOST does not find that acceptable as evidence that we have been given a proper opportunity for input. DOST can be found each month in the council committee room where, for more than twenty years, we have considered these matters.

DOST finds this to be a breach in our work with the city and seek your assistance to ensure that the Commission will be permitted to perform our usual role with regard to this issue.

In order to facilitate this, DOST requests a meeting within the next month to discuss the trail design for Phase E and options for incorporating DOST and public comment into the project. We would suggest that this meeting include staff from Public Works' Engineering and Transportation (specifically the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator) divisions, Parks and Recreation, General Services, NCDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Division, as well as select members from DOST and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission.

Please contact me if you have any questions about our concerns, or if there is any way that I can help with facilitating this meeting.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Clever', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Clever
Chairman, Durham Open Space and Trails Commission

CC: J. Michael Woodard, DOST Liaison to City Council
Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager
Steven L. Medlin, Director City/County Planning Department