

Bicycle & Pedestrian Newsletter

DCHC MPO Member Governments

Town of Carrboro
 Town of Chapel Hill
 County of Chatham
 City of Durham
 County of Durham
 Town of Hillsborough
 NCDOT
 County of Orange

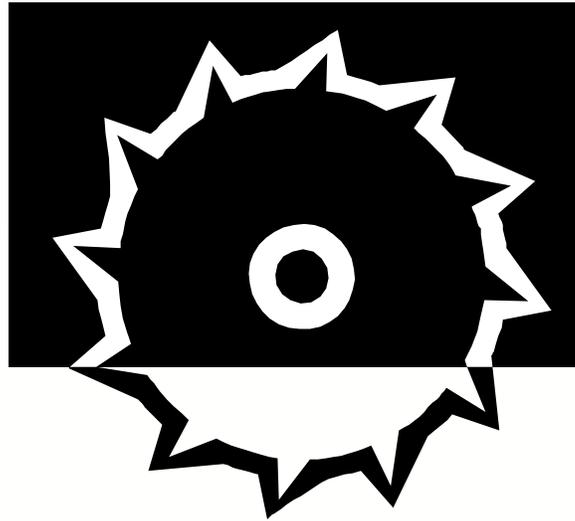
www.dchcmpo.org

Inside this issue:

Chapel Hill Plans	2
Orange County Board	3
ATT Update	3
Bike to Work Week	4
Carrboro Sidewalks	5
Durham Pedestrian Plan	5
Upcoming Events	6-8

CORE Bike & Pedestrian Plan Near Completion

The Center of the Region (CORE) Pedestrian-Bicycle-Green Space Plan was developed by six local governments and four partner organizations in the center of the Triangle area, to help local and regional entities create a linked network of pedestrian, bicycle and green space facilities. The DCHC MPO area partners involved include the City and County of Durham and the Research Triangle Foundation, who worked with other Triangle agencies and coordinating agency Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) to compile information on existing facilities and identify opportunities to connect route networks over time. The Plan includes an initial staff-level prioritization of planned and proposed



bicycle/pedestrian/trail facilities, and planning-level cost estimates of the resources that would be needed to complete these projects.

The CORE Plan will act primarily as a coordination tool that enables participating communities to envision and pursue

regional connectivity. As CORE project partners build new pedestrian, bicycle, and green space facilities, they will be able to create more value for citizens by linking these facilities into a regional network that helps people travel safely and easily to the places they want to go. When the final plan is released, local communities will be asked to adopt it and work toward focusing attention and resources on the de-

velopment of regionally-significant pedestrian, bicycle and green space as identified within the document.

To download a copy of the draft CORE Ped-Bike-Green Space Plan, visit <ftp://ftp.tjco.org/pub/coreplan.zip>.

MPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Program News

In April 2004, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO hired Alison Carpenter as Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, to focus on regional issues related to bike and pedestrian facility improvements, programming, and project funding mechanisms.

Much has been accomplished since last April, including the establishment of a regional bike/pedestrian staff subcommittee to discuss local and regional efforts, development of educational materials available to local municipalities, a coordinated Triangle Car-Free

Day in September, and the initiation of several regionally-significant projects like the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road Bicycle/Pedestrian Feasibility Study. With time, these efforts and others will result in a truly bike and pedestrian friendly area!

Chapel Hill Bicycle & Pedestrian Action Plan

On October 27, 2004 the Chapel Hill Town Council adopted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan. This long-range plan will act as a guide for future decisions about the provision of facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians. It includes recommended future actions to encourage increased bicycle and pedestrian activity and to empower citizens to improve conditions and facilities.

In order to connect neighborhoods to community facilities, transit and neighboring communities, the plan identifies locations for the following categories of facility:

- Sidewalks
- Off Road Paths

- Crossing Improvements (crosswalks, pedestrian refuges, lights and signs)
- Signed Bicycle Advisory Routes
- Bicycle Facilities (bicycle lanes/wide outside lanes)

The plan also identifies the following future education & encouragement actions: the provision of bicycle education classes; the publication of facilities maps and walks and rides maps; participation in the safe routes to school program; the provision of way marked routes and advisory signage; the development of a strategy to lobby for State and Federal

funds and a strategy to lobby State agencies and other agencies as appropriate to make policy changes to increase bicycle and pedestrian use.

To view the Plan visit <http://townhall.townofchapelhill.org/planning>

Data includes 24 hour and peak hour traffic counts, bicycle and pedestrian counts, transit ridership information and travel time data.

2003 Chapel Hill Mobility Report

The Mobility Report Card is a community-wide analysis made on a periodic basis to assess various elements of the Town's transportation system and monitor changes in travel behavior. The 2003 Mobility Report Card reviewed data collected in fall, 2003. The data includes 24 hour and peak hour traffic counts, bicycle and pedestrian counts, transit ridership information and travel time data.

The 2003 Report Card included the following findings:

- Vehicular activity, arterial level of service and peak hour intersection level of service were largely unchanged from the 2001 Report.
- Automobile travel times evaluated along major transportation corridors have improved.
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities within the Town were expanded since 2001.

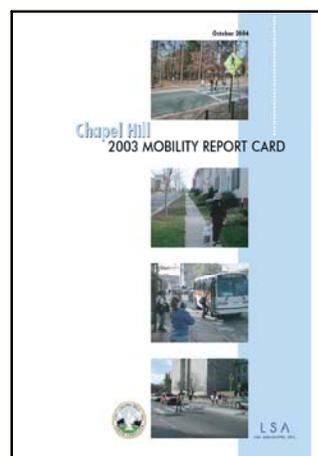
• While pedestrian activity has increased compared to 2001, bicycle activity has declined when compared to the previous Report.

• Transit service and ridership has expanded since 2001. Fixed route transit service has increased 42%, while transit ridership for the same period has grown by 55%.

• Parking areas surveyed show less overall utilization than in 2001.

Funding for the Report Card was provided by the DCHCMPO through the Direct Allocation Program. The cost of the 2003 Study was \$92,800

To view the Mobility Report Card visit <http://townhall.townofchapelhill.org/planning>



Orange County Establishes Transportation Board

The Orange County Board of Commissioners, at a meeting on February 28, 2005, endorsed the establishment of the Orange County Unified Transportation Advisory Board (OCUTAB).

The OCTAB will consist of 14 members plus a liaison from the Board of County Commissioners. Membership of the new transportation board will include a representative from each township, representatives (one from each) from the Commission for the Environment, the Economic Development Commission, the Planning Board and the Transportation Services Board for Orange Public Transportation, and three members (one for

each area of interest) that will represent special interests/expertise for bicycle issues, pedestrian and safety issues, and transit issues.

As an ongoing work group that includes members from Orange County agencies dealing with environmental, social and economic interests, OCUTAB will provide coordination among the various county advisory boards and commissions that deal with

issues affected by transportation.

For more info on Orange County meetings and events, visit www.co.orange.nc.us



Yield to Heels Campaign at UNC

Pedestrian Safety at UNC

"Yield to Heels" is an ongoing awareness campaign focused on clearing up misconceptions about traffic and pedestrians and providing useful information on pedestrian safety to the university community. The campaign focuses on three messages for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists: Be aware, be considerate and be safe.

With a grant from the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program, UNC's Department of Public Safety created a three-member traffic and pedestrian safety unit in July 2001. Since then, over 613 citations have been issued to motorists for failure to yield to pedestrians in marked crosswalks, and 989 speeding citations have been written.

"One of our top challenges at the Department of Public Safety is to help ensure accessibility to a campus environment that is continually changing and growing," said Director Derek Poarch. "A clearer understanding of regulations concerning pedestrian safety benefits pedestrians, motorists and all who travel to, from and around campus."

"A clearer understanding of regulations concerning pedestrian safety benefits pedestrians, motorists and all who travel to, from and around campus."

News on the American Tobacco Trail

The American Tobacco Trail in Chatham County has been of particular interest both locally and regionally for several years. In March of this year, Bill Bussey with Triangle Rails-to-Trails Conservancy gave a presentation about the ATT to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. The presentation covered efforts that had been completed or were underway in Durham and

Wake Counties and items that need to be completed in Chatham County. One of the biggest items is bridge decking that must be added at two existing railroad trestles over Northeast and Panther Creeks. The County



The ATT's fall colors, photo courtesy of TRTC

Commissioners will soon be considering the level of funding that can be made available as part of their update to the Capital Improvements Plan. More information should be available in coming months.

Bike to Work Week 2005

Commute to work by bike and skip the gym!

May 16-20 is national Bike to Work Week and events are scheduled throughout the Triangle in celebration! For those who are not regular bike commuters, Bike to Work Week provides an opportunity to give bicycle commuting a try.

Bicycling is a healthy, fun way to start and end a work day, and will allow you to incorporate exercise into your daily routine. With the rising costs of gasoline, increasing traffic congestion and weakening air quality, bike commuting is a smart choice for many people. If you live within 5 miles of your work destination, you might consider giving it a try once or twice to see if it works for you.

Bike to Work Week is a great time to start. There will be plenty of incentives at local events and the opportunity to partner with a "bike buddy" to get you started. For those cyclists who commute by bike regularly, Bike to Work Week is a special opportunity to be rewarded for your efforts and share your experiences with

others. Check out some of these local happenings:

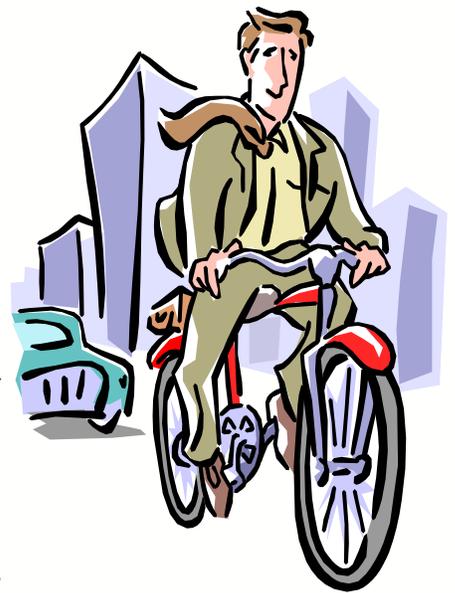
Durham

Join other Durham cyclists on Friday, May 20 from 7-9am at MadHatter's on Broad St for a Bicyclist Breakfast. Follow up your breakfast with a free bike tune-up and prize giveaway in the Wellspring Shopping Plaza parking lot. After work, bike over to the NC School of Science & Math Lecture Hall for popcorn and a film showing of bicyclist flicks! For more info, visit <http://dbpac.dchcmpo.org>

RTP

Want to try commuting by bicycle but don't know what route would work for you? Worried about safety issues? Would you feel better if you had another cyclist to share the ride? This May, celebrate Bike to Work Week, May 16-20, by following an experienced cyclist to work. Learn their routes and find suggestions to your cycling concerns and ques-

tions. Small group rides will be organized from Apex, Cary, Durham, West Raleigh, and other locations into RTP. Sign up at www.SmartCommute.org soon!

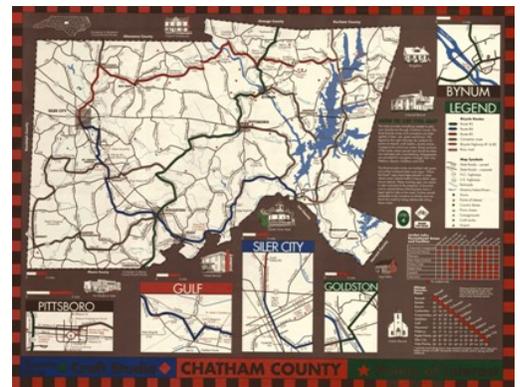


“Moderate exercise - such as walking and biking - is the number one change Americans can make to improve their health.”
— Surgeon General

Chatham County Releases Bike Map

Whether you are an avid bicyclist or just enjoy a leisurely weekend bike ride in a rural setting, the Chatham County Bicycle Route Map offers you several different options. The map can be downloaded from the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Division website (www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/maps/maps_regional.html) and will soon be available on the

County Planning Department website.



Durham Focuses on Pedestrian Planning

The City of Durham recently hired Cary-based consulting firm, Louis Berger Group, Inc. to develop a Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan that will help shape Durham into a more walkable community. The City's first pedestrian plan is partially-funded by a NC Department of Transportation planning grant, and exhibits a huge level of effort by the City to become more pedestrian-friendly. The planning effort will include an inventory of all public sidewalks, recommendations for improved policy and design standards, an analysis of the city's overall pedestrian network connectivity, and project pri-

oritization to help effectively allocate funding sources to high priority projects.

The pedestrian inventory of existing sidewalks and trails will be taken by Global Positioning System units to provide a Geographic Information

System (GIS) tool for mapping and planning work. This technical resource will be combined with extensive public involvement to develop sidewalk improvement priorities for the entire city. In addition to the identification of specific project priorities, recommendations will be made to keep Durham's design and policy guidelines up-to-date with the most modern national pedestrian-friendly standards.

The study will begin in April 2005. Public information and meeting updates will be made available on the city's website at www.durhamnc.gov.



Children crossing Alston Ave

"Local community leaders, health and transportation professionals, law enforcement officers, parents and neighbors are invited...."

Safe Routes to School Training in the Triangle

DCHC MPO is pleased to announce that the City of Durham and Towns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill have been selected by the NC Department of Transportation as pilot locations to conduct several Safe Routes to School workshops in April. These one-day workshops, scheduled for April 26th and 28th, will help local schools and

communities work toward making walking and bicycling safe and appealing ways for children to get to school.

Local community leaders, health and transportation professionals, law enforcement officers, parents and neighbors are invited to help make this course a successful endeavor by participating and

sharing their unique experience and insight. Our local communities are honored to host this national course that we hope will provide participants with the knowledge and skills to develop sound SR2S programs at local schools.

For more information or to participate in the course, contact Alison at 560-4366.

Carrboro Moves Forward on Sidewalk Projects

In November 2003 Carrboro voters approved a \$4.6 million general obligation bond issue to construct sidewalks and greenway trails. Following this approval, the Board of Aldermen identified 21 sidewalk projects for the first phase of the bond program.

During the summer of 2004, information meetings were held to describe the design

and construction process and to allow property owners to discuss their interests before the consultant began sidewalk design. A series of follow-up meetings were held from October 2004 to March 2005 to allow property owners to comment on a proposed design.

Following the completion of sidewalk designs in the spring

of 2005, it is anticipated that construction of sidewalks will begin in the summer of 2005.



For more info, visit www.townofcarrboro.com

SmartCommute Gets the Triangle to Work – The Smart Way!

Spring is here, and the time is perfect to try getting to work a new way! Enjoy beautiful spring days by commuting to work by bicycle or bus. Smart Commute member employees get a 20% discount off transit passes at the RTP bus center – just show your employer’s photo I.D. card when purchasing, and get 20% off! Visit the SmartCommute website at www.SmartCommute.org to find out if your employer is a member.

cycling and pedestrian issues through the RTP Bike and Pedestrian Listserv. Sign up instructions are at www.SmartCommute.org/BikeWalk.htm.

Find a Bike Buddy, carpool partner, or vanpool at www.ShareTheRideNC.com and share the ride to work.

Ever wonder where new bike lanes are going to be added or how that gets decided? Want to know who to contact about your cycling or safety concerns? Keep up with local



Tell us what you think!

DCHC MPO wants to know what kind of bike and pedestrian improvements you would like to see in your community. Complete and return the following survey with your suggestions, to help us further our goal of excellence in public service.

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-
CARRBORO MPO**

**Alison Carpenter
City of Durham
Transportation Division
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701**

**Phone: 919-560-4366
Fax: 919-560-4561**

- | | |
|--|--|
| How often do you bike/
walk to work? | Do you prefer trails, bike
lanes or riding w/traffic? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daily/ almost daily | <input type="checkbox"/> I only use trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once a week or so | <input type="checkbox"/> I like bike lanes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once /twice a year | <input type="checkbox"/> I bike with traffic |

- | | |
|--|--|
| How often do you bike/
walk for recreational
purposes? | How often do you bike/
walk for transportation
purposes? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly or monthly | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly or monthly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Every few months | <input type="checkbox"/> Every few months |

Comments:

Name

Address

Phone

Info Exchange

For up-to-date information on local bike and pedestrian events and social opportunities, check out the following websites:

www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle

<http://dbpac.dchcmo.org>

www.triangletrails.org

www.tarwheels.org

www.trianglemtb.com

www.carolinagodiva.org

Upcoming Summer Events

ONGOING EVENTS

- Attend a Chapel Hill Bike/ Ped Advisory Board meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month, 7-9pm in Chapel Hill's Town Hall. Public is welcome anytime for comment or observation.
- Attend a Durham Bike/ Ped Advisory Commission meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7-9pm in Durham City Hall. Public is welcome anytime for comment or observation.

April

April 17, all day

Stroll around Downtown Chapel Hill for the Apple Chill Festival

April 22—Earth Day

April 23, 11AM-5PM

Join in on the Durham Earth Day celebration in Downtown Durham on Corcoran and Parrish Streets. The Durham Open Space & Trails Commission and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Commission will both be present with information and resources available to cyclists and walkers.

April 26, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Air Awareness Week and 2005 Ozone Season Kickoff and Awards Luncheon

Visit www.SmartCommute.org for more info

April 26, 8:00AM— 4:00PM

Safe Routes to School Training Course @ Fayetteville Street Elementary School, Durham

To register, contact Alison Carpenter at 560-4366

April 28, 8:00AM—4:00PM

Safe Routes to School Training Course @ Carrboro Elementary School, Carrboro

To register, contact Dale McKeel at 918-7329

Safe Routes to School Training Course @ Ephesus Church Elementary School, Chapel Hill

To register, contact David Bonk at 968-2728

May

May 16 - 20: Celebrate Bike to Work Week

Check out the Bike to Work Week article on Page 4 for specific event info.

June

June 3-5: League of American Bicyclists' Certified Instructors Course
Becoming a League Cycling Instructor (LCI) and teaching BikeEd classes is a great way to help existing and future cyclists enjoy all the benefits of bicycling. If you've been through the Road I training, you probably already know the benefits of bicycle training, including the confidence to go where you want, when you want, while staying safe and healthy. Training as an instructor qualifies you to lead BikeEd training courses and empower other bicyclists with these skills.

For additional information and course registration, contact Jeremy Raw at 933-0214.

July

No events scheduled at this time

August

The SmartCommute Challenge is expanding into Durham County! This year, the Annual SmartCommute Challenge, formerly limited to Research Triangle Park, will be expanded into Durham and Wake Counties! The Challenge asks employees to make a pledge to try commuting to work by alternative transportation – carpool, vanpool, bike, walk, or bus – at least one time. Employees who sign the pledge are eligible to win a variety of prizes, including two free airline tickets anywhere in the continental United States and a week's hotel stay in the destination city. This year's Challenge is scheduled to begin in August and conclude on September 30, 2005.

More information will be available on www.SmartCommute.org later this year.

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO MPO

Alison Carpenter
City of Durham
Transportation Division
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Phone: 919-560-4366
Fax: 919-560-4561



WE'RE ON THE WEB:

WWW.DCHCMPO.ORG

Celebrate Air Awareness Week with Ozone Season Kickoff and Awards Luncheon Tuesday, April 26

Governor Mike Easley has signed a proclamation designating April 24-30 as Air Awareness Week. This is the first year that the Governor has designated an Air Awareness week for the State of North Carolina.



2004 SmartCommute Awards

On Tuesday, April 26, from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, Triangle Air Awareness, SmartCommute@RTP, and Environment@RTP will celebrate Air Awareness Week and the 2005 Ozone Season Kickoff and Awards Luncheon.

The Smart Commute Annual Awards Ceremony will honor individuals and employers in RTP who are dedicated alternative commuters, and Smart Commute member employers who offer transportation benefits to their employees. The Environment@RTP Annual Awards Ceremony will recognize employers in RTP for excellence in environmental leadership and innovation.

Triangle Air Awareness will kick off the 2005 Ozone Season

with an air quality update and reminders of what people can do at work, at home, and on the road to improve air quality and retain the quality of life everyone enjoys in the Triangle area. The event will be held at the IBM Employee Activity and Fitness Center, 3039 Cornwallis Road, Research Triangle Park. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to SmartCommute@rtp.org by April 20 to attend.