

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 9:33 AM
To: Blake Bernholz
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: Why?

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin

Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

-----Original Message-----

From: Blake Bernholz <bbernholz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 4, 2023 4:39 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Why?

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the Phish Alert Button

Why is there no opportunity for community discussion around the ncdot proposed development at the 15/501-i40 exchange. Seems like this is happening more and more often. Voters will be reminded I'm sure.

Blake F. Bernholz

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 9:34 AM
To: Scott Windham
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: 15-501 project needs *local input*

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Scott Windham <swindham@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 4, 2023 2:29 PM
To: jesandor@ncdot.gov; bjupshaw@ncdot.gov; warcher@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; pwilson@ncdot.gov; bhjones@ncdot.gov
Cc: Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: 15-501 project needs *local input*

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

NCDOT's proposal for 15-501 near the I-40 interchange sounds like a top-down imposition. Your assumption seems to be that unelected officials in Raleigh know better than locally elected representatives. 15-501 is primarily a local and regional transportation corridor. Therefore, the wishes of local citizens -- which were expressed long ago to NCDOT by our locally elected representatives -- deserve much more consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Scott Windham
Chapel Hill
919-699-6007

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 9:34 AM
To: Alex Krohn
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Bergen Watterson; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: Dissappointed in NCDOTs Plans and Practices

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Alex Krohn <alex.krohn1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 4, 2023 9:50 AM
To: bjupshaw@ncdot.gov; jesandor@ncdot.gov; bhjones@ncdot.gov; warcher@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; pwilson@ncdot.gov; doug.plachcinski@dchcmo.org; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Dissappointed in NCDOTs Plans and Practices

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Hello there,

I'm writing to express my disappointment and outrage on NCDOT's current Express Design plan at the intersection of hwy 15-501 and hwy 40.

As a resident of Chapel Hill, I travel through that area multiple times per week, sometimes daily. I fully support my town's mobility and connectivity plan, as well as the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization's transit plan to connect our towns. After much planning and input, including the input of NCDOT, we agreed to a plan that prioritized multimodal connections, including bus, bikes and pedestrians. We made specific recommendations for this 15-501 corridor in collaboration with NCDOT.

Unfortunately, it appears that NCDOT ignored the desires of the town and its people in this proposal. I am sorely disappointed that our desires were ignored, and that the people did not get a say in the roads they use every day.

I urge NCDOT to reconsider its plans, I urge the MPO to reject NCDOT's plans, and urge the Chapel Hill Town Council to meet with NCDOT to discuss how such a crucial road and intersection could be changed with so little input, and so contrary to the DCHC MPO's plans.

As a government department funded by taxpayers, I wish NCDOT would respond to the needs and wants of the taxpayers affected by its changes, instead of acting unilaterally.

Sincerely,

Alex Krohn

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 9:35 AM
To: vadrian
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Bergen Watterson; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: Omission of Town of Chapel Hill from NCDOT Planning for 15-501 Improvements

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin

Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

-----Original Message-----

From: vadrian <vadrian@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 4, 2023 8:42 AM
To: warcher@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; pwilson@ncdot.gov
Cc: doug.plachcinski@dchcmo.org; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; Angie Shatas <shatas.angie@gmail.com>; mpm <mp_moorman@yahoo.com>
Subject: Omission of Town of Chapel Hill from NCDOT Planning for 15-501 Improvements

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the Phish Alert Button

Dear NCDOT:

This morning, I learned of plans NCDOT has been making for "improvements" to the area of 15-501 that is near my community. I was dismayed to learn that these plans were being made without the involvement of the Chapel Hill Town Council or - reportedly - anyone outside of the NCDOT.

My source went on to elaborate that, once confronted with this situation, you offered the impacted communities effectively only one week (May 30 to June 9) during which to provide comments on the proposed design. The proposed design is extensive, but at first glance, it runs roughshod over my community's priorities for pedestrian and cycling safety and convenience. I.e. it bears improvements and would benefit from comments from the communities who are expert at living in these areas. Therefore, I should think you would want to allow significantly more time to receive, analyze, and respond to comments.

I strongly urge that you:

- * extend the comment period significantly beyond June 9, such that there is sufficient time for the impacted communities to socialize the proposed changes and collect meaningful feedback
- * work with the impacted communities in Orange and Durham counties to form a proper partnership for these plans going forward
- * explain how the planning process progressed to this apparently advance status without input from these communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Adrian Vrouwenvelder
adrian1@cantocrew.com
919-259-8408
2465 Wayfarer Court
Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (Orange County)

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 9:35 AM
To: vadrian
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Bergen Watterson; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: NCDOT plans for "improving" 15-501

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin

Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

-----Original Message-----

From: vadrian <vadrian@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 4, 2023 8:03 AM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: NCDOT plans for "improving" 15-501

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the Phish Alert Button

Dear Mayor Hemminger and Town Council:

I am extremely dismayed to learn that NCDOT has stealthily devised plans for "improvements" in Chapel Hill in the absence of any effort to involve the Town of Chapel Hill.

For my wife, my children, and my friends, the number one attraction of where we now live (which is within a mile of the planned "improvements") is the walkability, the trails, the gradually improving cycling infrastructure. We love where we live because we generally walk without being run down, cycle to get groceries and otherwise get around, and generally avoid using a car.

It should be axiomatic for everyone involved that the NCDOT plans for the 15-501 "improvements" should be developed in partnership with the Town Council of Chapel Hill, and so it's dismaying to learn that it is apparently not so.

Furthermore, the onus is on NCDOT to present an account to the Council as to how and why this project reached its apparently advanced status without involving those who are affected by the "improvements" from the start.

I trust that you will work hard to address these two matters: forming the partnership with NCDOT that is necessary for these "improvements," and demanding that the NCDOT explain how and why they did not work harder to involve the Chapel Hill Town Council from inception.'

Regards,
Adrian Vrouwenvelder
2465 Wayfarer Court
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-259-8408

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 9:38 AM
To: Christian Matthaesus
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: U-6067 Express Design Comments

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Christian Matthaesus <christian.matthaesus@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 9:32 PM
To: bhjones@ncdot.gov; jesandor@ncdot.gov; bjupshaw@ncdot.gov; warcher@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; pwilson@ncdot.gov
Cc: doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: U-6067 Express Design Comments

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Dear NCDOT -

I have just learned about the proposed U-6067 Express Design, proposing major changes to the I40/US 15-501 interchange.

I am a Chapel Hill resident, and live 2.2 miles from the interchange. Our daughter goes to daycare in Durham, so I drive 15-501 several times a day. There is absolutely no need to improve car traffic along 15-501 (instead I wish there was a good bus route or bike path - as the Town of Chapel Hill has already proposed). There is zero need for an additional I-40 overpass at UNC's Eastowne site. Driving daily to Durham I experience very little fluctuation in travel times - I do not need to improve my trip by a few seconds and waste \$100M in taxpayer dollars.

The design proposal and process are **outrageous** - and are not inline with the town's values and needs. The proposed design and process remind me of Robert Moses-style planning in New York City that continues to destroy communities and the environment.

The rapid, no-public comment approach is akin to bullying on a governmental level.

Adding lanes has proven to not mitigate traffic - but actually encourages more cars (studies have shown this repeatedly - as you well know).

When will the NCDOT finally wake up to the 20th century and stop the vicious 1960s "one more lane" archaic thinking (as the agency is doing on I-40 to Hillsborough already)?

When will the NCDOT finally take into consideration that we are in a climate crisis - like Governor Roy Cooper himself has said repeatedly?

When will the NCDOT make alternative modes of transit a priority?

When will the NCDOT finally listen to the communities in a public forum setting that are threatened by its outdated carbon-dependent ways?

The town government and the vast majority of its citizens (rightly) are interested in developing ways to make us less car-dependent. We want a true multi-modal 15-501 and less cars, not an expanded mini-freeway, and more cars on the roads.

Thanks,

Christian Matthaeus
Chapel Hill

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 9:38 AM
To: Matthew Duncan
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Bergen Watterson; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: Tobacco Road 15-501 Planned Changes

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Matthew Duncan <matt.duncan1770@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 8:45 PM
To: Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; doug.plachcinski@dchcmpto.org; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; pwilson@ncdot.gov; warcher@ncdot.gov
Subject: Tobacco Road 15-501 Planned Changes

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

I just read a very disturbing article about planned changes to 15-501 that have been rushed through. Please don't expedite a design that completely disregards the community's goals and priorities and provides no opportunities for anyone outside of NCDOT to be involved in any meaningful way.

We need more of the multimodal corridor transportation plan integrated from the 2020 Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO).

No bus stops? No bus lanes? **Pedestrians and bicyclists are expected to cross on/off ramps?! Someone is going to get killed, just like the pedestrian who recently got killed on 15-501 at the Garrett Road intersection. Please do better than this.**

-Matt Duncan, lifelong Durham resident

--

Best, Matt

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 12:36 PM
To: Melissa McCullough
Cc: Lance Norris; Sarah Poulton; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: NCDOT plan for 15-501 at I-40

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Melissa McCullough <melissamccnc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 12:02 PM
To: bhjones@ncdot.gov; jesandor@ncdot.gov; bjupshaw@ncdot.gov; warcher@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; pwilson@ncdot.gov
Cc: doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Jenn Weaver <Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov>; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: NCDOT plan for 15-501 at I-40

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Dear NCDOT officials,
I am writing for the local Orange-Chatham Group of the NC Sierra Club. We are very concerned that NCDOT is proposing a new design process for 15-501 area, and we ask that this effort be halted, for a number of reasons.

1. The NCDOT is ignoring the robust 2020 process, for which NCDOT worked with the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO, the local governments, and the public. That process resulted in a multimodal corridor transportation plan, which should be respected as a valid process and product.
2. The 2020 MPO plan addressed local priorities, focusing on multimodal opportunities that also aligned with Sierra Club policy: "Transportation investments should focus on improving walking, bicycling and transit connections..." In other words, minimize new road building.
3. This planned road would destroy a designated NC Natural Heritage site. This site is a rare, mature, and uncommon forest type, which we are fortunate to still have inside the city. This type of rare ecosystem merits protection, and the NCDOT should respect its designation and existence.
4. This design is looking at spending immense amounts of money to save drivers **less than a minute** of waiting at stop lights. This amount of funding could go a long way on transit improvements or bike/ped infrastructure, for greater public benefit in line with local priorities.

In short, we ask you to not rush into a process that is unnecessary and wasteful of public funds.

Thank you for this consideration,
Melissa McCullough, Chair
Orange Chatham Group of the NC Sierra Club

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 12:42 PM
To: gerkens@aloha.net
Cc: Lance Norris; Sarah Poulton; Bergen Watterson; Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: !5/501 I-40 Changes

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: gerkens@aloha.net <gerkens@aloha.net>
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 11:47 AM
To: warcher@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; pwilson@ncdot.gov;
doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; Town Council
<mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: !5/501 I-40 Changes

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

The proposed changes do not appear to have taken into account several aspects, specifically including bicycle or foot traffic across the intersection. From what I've seen, these routes would entail crossing on or off ramps with no traffic control. The constricted timeline does not give all concerned parties enough time to ensure all aspects are considered, nor does it appear earlier proposals from the local jurisdictions were addressed. Please consider extending the review period and looking at all aspects, not just vehicular traffic. Thanks

Fred Gerken, Southern Village, Chapel Hill

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 12:43 PM
To: Boyce Griffith
Cc: Lance Norris; Sarah Poulton; Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Bergen Watterson; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: US 15-501 / I-40 interchange

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin

Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

-----Original Message-----

From: Boyce Griffith <boyceg@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 11:15 AM
To: bhjones@ncdot.gov; jesandor@ncdot.gov; bjupshaw@ncdot.gov; warcher@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; pwilson@ncdot.gov
Cc: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov
Subject: US 15-501 / I-40 interchange

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the Phish Alert Button

NCDOT Engineering and Development Staff for Durham and Orange Counties —

I am writing to urge the NCDOT to allow stakeholders, including the Town of Chapel Hill and the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, additional time to review, evaluate, and respond to the proposed redesign of US 15-501 at the I-40 interchange. As you all know, this is an important entrance to Chapel Hill and connection between Chapel Hill and Durham. The changes that have been proposed will have long term impacts on both communities as well as the broader region. As such, it is critical that they be carefully considered.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Boyce Griffith
513 Parkside Circle
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 3:32 PM
To: Reece Cardwell
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Lance Norris; Sarah Poulton; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: Proposed 15-501 changes - Needs to be publically discussed

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Reece Cardwell <reececardwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 2:57 PM
To: bhjones@ncdot.gov; jesandor@ncdot.gov; bjupshaw@ncdot.gov; warcher@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; pwilson@ncdot.gov
Cc: doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Proposed 15-501 changes - Needs to be publically discussed

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Hello,

I am writing to you today to address the proposed changes to 15-501. Please do not rush to develop a design that completely disregards the community's priorities and provides no opportunities for anyone outside of NCDOT to be involved in any substantive way. I live right in the middle of the zone you have identified and what you are proposing will have a major impact on all of us who live and work in this area.

The current proposal does not seem to address any issues currently in place and will actually create far more. This is already a busy corridor that backs up due to the construction taking place on I-40 towards Greensboro- a project which seems to be taking the better part of a decade. And now you are proposing to add even more construction to this area for what appears to be zero benefit?

It feels very disingenuous for you to make these decisions without any public discussion such as attending a Council meeting or hosting a public forum.

Please do better.

Kind regards,
Reece Cardwell

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2023 11:00 AM
To: Evan Kirk
Cc: Lance Norris; Sarah Poulton; Britany Waddell; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: Express Design for US 15-501 at I-40

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Evan Kirk <evankirk29@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 9:24 AM
To: bhjones@ncdot.gov
Cc: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov
Subject: Express Design for US 15-501 at I-40

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Mr. Jones,

I am a 12 year Chapel Hill resident and double Tar Heel. I have serious concerns for the express design for US 15-501 at I-40. My main concern is the lack of community involvement in the design and the disregard for the recommendations made by the DCHC MPO and NCDOT's own complete streets policy. My detailed concerns are as follows:

1. The extension of Eastown Drive through a protected wetland is unnecessary. The MPO has proposed an alternative extension of Danzinger Drive, which is ignored in the express design. The Danzinger extension was to be multi-modal.
2. The express design is a nightmare for cyclists and pedestrians. This will virtually eliminate any future multi-modal connections from the residential areas in Chapel Hill to the commercial activities around Mt. Moriah Road.
3. The express design ignores all the transit facilities and infrastructure proposed in the DCHC recommendations.

While ultimately this is DOT's road, it is our community and we deserve substantial involvement in the design process because we will have to live with the impacts.

Thank you,

Evan Kirk

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2023 2:33 PM
To: Maria Teresa Unger Palmer
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Sarah Poulton; Lance Norris; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: 15-501 Redesign- Chapel Hill priorities

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Maria Teresa Unger Palmer <mariatpalmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 1:16 PM
To: bhjones@ncdot.gov; jesandor@ncdot.gov; bjupshaw@ncdot.gov; warcher@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; pwilson@ncdot.gov
Cc: doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: 15-501 Redesign- Chapel Hill priorities

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Dear NCDOT Engineers,

I am appalled to learn about the "Concept Plan" that NCDOT has created for our northern gateway into Chapel Hill. I am sure you have read the TriangleBlog report on the project. I think the headline summarizes how your proposed design feels to the residents of Chapel.

What happened to the multimodal corridor conceptual design that resulted from the 2020 work? That work--which was a true collaboration--included our goals for ALL types of transportation, including **better facilities for buses, pedestrians and bikes**. It addressed **CONCERNS** about climate change and population growth, and most importantly, it had the support of **all stakeholders and represented our communities' values**.

IT IS NOT OK to disregard the communities' priorities. You are public servants and we expect your transportation designs to reflect the best possible outcomes for ALL the current and future residents of our communities. Your proposed design does none of this. It even violates your own "Complete Streets" policy and endangers bicycle commuters through poor design, not to mention the lack of public transportation infrastructure.

I am writing to request that you go back and use as your basis for the future of this road the 2020 multimodal plan developed by the DCHC MPO.

In case you missed it, here is a link to the article. Please read it carefully, the residents of Chapel Hill have, and we expect some action in response.

NCDOT, local governments, and the community.

TRANSPORTATION

NCDOT to Chapel Hill: Drop Dead

by **Triangle BlogBlog** June 2, 2023

Hill: <https://triangleblogblog.com/2023/06/02/ncdot-to-chapel-hill-drop-dead/>

Maria Teresa Unger Palmer, Ed.D
303 Forbush Mtn. Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(919) 260-4361

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2023 4:28 PM
To: Amanda Legler
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Lance Norris; Sarah Poulton; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: "Express Design" for US 15-501 around I-40

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Amanda Legler <acleger@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 4:21 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: "Express Design" for US 15-501 around I-40

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Hello,

As a concerned citizen, I wanted to reach out and share that I am just as upset as Town staff and demand that NCDOT staff attend a Council meeting in person to discuss how this project got so far along without any effort to reach out to the people who will be affected.

Thank you!

--

Amanda Legler

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2023 9:14 AM
To: Rebecca Fox
Cc: Lance Norris; Sarah Poulton; Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: U-6067

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Rebecca Fox <foxrebecca@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 9:07 PM
To: bhjones@ncdot.gov
Cc: jesandor@ncdot.gov; bjupshaw@ncdot.gov; warcher@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; pwilson@ncdot.gov; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; doug.plachcinski@dchcmo.org; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov
Subject: U-6067

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Good evening,
I echo fellow Chapel Hillians and Mayor Hemminger in expressing strong opposition to NC-DOT's "Express Design" for 15-501 near 40.

Please pause to involve our representatives and local professionals from the the DCHCMPO. When you resume, take into account the desires of Chapel Hill and Durham communities, which is for multi-modal transportation infrastructure rather than more infrastructure that's exclusively for cars.

Rebecca Fox
Chapel Hill

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2023 10:14 AM
To: Mark Hainline
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Sarah Poulton; Lance Norris; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: Thank you, Mayor Hemminger

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Mark Hainline <mark_hainline@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 7:46 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Thank you, Mayor Hemminger

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Madam Mayor,

I have just finished reading your letter to NCDOT's regarding its plan for the US 15/501 corridor. Thank you for your strong response. That plan misses the mark on so many points that I can't count them all. We need plans that move us away from a reliance on automobiles, rather than one, like DOT's, that deepens our reliance on them. We only need look at pictures of what the air is like in the Northeast today to understand that it is urgent for us to begin doing so now. Even putting that concern to the side, we need a plan that fits in with the direction that the town has chosen, rather than one that seeks to ram a destructive path into place.

I hope that our town council will follow up with strong statements endorsing your letter. We must not go down this road.

Thanks again,
Mark Hainline

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2023 10:14 AM
To: Leon Scroggins III
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Sarah Poulton; Lance Norris; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: 15-501/40 interchange

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Leon Scroggins III <scroggo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 7:19 PM
To: bhjones@ncdot.gov; jesandor@ncdot.gov; bjupshaw@ncdot.gov; warcher@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; pwilson@ncdot.gov
Cc: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov
Subject: 15-501/40 interchange

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Hi,

I recently learned about NCDOT plans to update this interchange in ways that don't align with the town's goals. Please slow down this process and incorporate feedback from the people of Chapel Hill!

Leon Scroggins
Chapel Hill

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2023 10:14 AM
To: Phil Post
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Sarah Poulton; Lance Norris; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: NCDOT U-6067

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Phil Post <philip.n.post@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 6:01 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: NCDOT U-6067

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Dear Mayor Pam and Council:

I write to thank Mayor Pam and the Town Council for your swift and resounding rejection of this misguided NCDOT proposal.

I write as a 38 year property owner in Eastowne Office Park who has consistently and strongly opposed the ideas contained in U-6067.

Having said that, Chapel Hill does need to strongly support the extension of Danzinger Drive , which would provide the street, Greenway and sidewalk connectivity needed between Chapel Hill and Durham, with such connectivity located in the right place for Chapel Hill.

Again, my sincere thanks to Mayor Pam and to the Council.

Phil

--

Philip N. Post , PE, PLS
Phone / Text (919) 818-7862

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2023 11:33 AM
To: leifbr@proton.me
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: 15-501 Express will lock in bad land use

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: leifbr@proton.me <leifbr@proton.me>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 11:17 AM
To: bhjones@ncdot.gov; jesandor@ncdot.gov; bjupshaw@ncdot.gov; warcher@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; pwilson@ncdot.gov
Cc: doug.plachcinski@dchcmo.org; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: 15-501 Express will lock in bad land use

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Dear NCDOT Engineers and DCHCMPO,

My mother lives in Chapel Hill, but can't drive due to her deteriorating vision. Because our region is so car dependent, her transportation options are extremely limited, seriously impacting her ability to live an independent, normal life, which is in turn hurting her mental health.

The new 15-501 expressway project is a huge slap in the face to those who rely on alternative transportation. It's being designed almost exclusively with vehicular traffic needs in mind, with transit and bike infrastructure put in as an after thought. Moving forward with this project will make it much harder to turn the 15-501 corridor into a denser, less car dependent area, since any such development would be poorly served by transit and would be divided by a loud and dangerous to cross highway.

This project needs to incorporate comfortable, preferably grade separated pedestrian and bicycle crossings of all highways involved. People should feel comfortable biking with their young children on every route in the area. The at-grade crossings over lots of free flowing traffic at the I40 crossing (as seen in the screenshots of the preliminary plan) is not something I'd feel comfortable having a young child or vision impaired person bike on, and is absolutely not acceptable. If alternative transportation isn't safe and pleasant, few will use it and any hope of reduced car dependency essentially dies.

Additionally, there should be dedicated bus lanes, so that the inevitable future traffic doesn't effect buses. To connect to these fast buses, there should be safe and fast pedestrian/bicycle access to bus stops at New Hope Commons and Garret Rd, so that buses are as convenient as driving, not the unpleasant, dangerous, and slow option they currently are.

Please don't push a car centric design for this project through. The project should give equal consideration to bikes, pedestrians, transit, and private vehicles in a way that will most effectively serve the area as it develops into a more dense, less car dependant area.

Building a community where you don't need to drive in order to live a normal life is a difficult and delicate process, which can't survive a wrecking ball, like this project, hitting it head on.

Leif Rasmussen

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Jones, Brandon H
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: [External] NCDOT plan for 15-501 at I-40

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



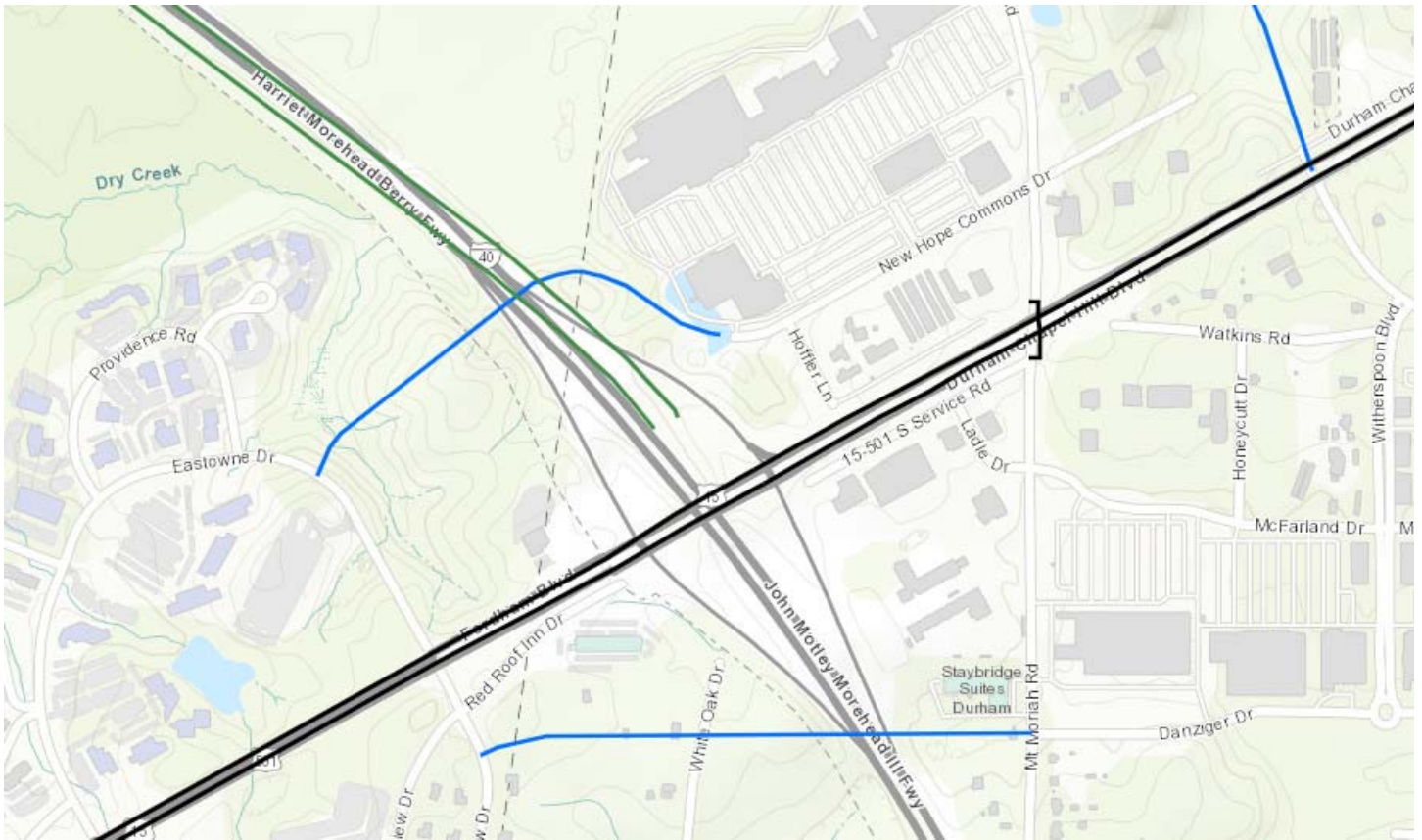
Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Jones, Brandon H <bhjones@ncdot.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Melissa McCullough <melissamccnc@gmail.com>; Sandor, John E <jesandor@ncdot.gov>; Upshaw, Ben <bjupshaw@ncdot.gov>; Archer III, Wright <warcher@ncdot.gov>; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; Wilson, Patrick D <pwilson@ncdot.gov>
Cc: doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Jenn Weaver <Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov>; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; Parrott, Tracy N <tnparrott@ncdot.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] NCDOT plan for 15-501 at I-40

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Melissa,

Below is my response to Mayor Hemminger that summarizes our process for this project. Also below is a map of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan that was approved by the DCHC Board early last year. The Eastowne connector continues to be part of this plan and was also in the 2045 plan.



Mayor Hemminger,

We appreciate the town's response and concerns regarding our express design concept. We know the importance of this corridor to the region and this project will take a lot of effort for proper coordination once we start the future project development phase and we look forward to working with Chapel Hill, Durham, DCHC and the local stakeholders to assure this corridor addresses the needs for all modes of transportation.

U-6067 has been funded in the State Transportation Improvement program since the 2018-2027 STIP and described as an upgrade to an expressway including modifications to the I-40 interchange, a grade separation of Mt. Moriah Road and a new interchange at SW Durham Drive. This description matched 2045 and previously approved Metropolitan Transportation Plans which the project was based upon. Although the same project gained a committed status in the 2020-2029 STIP, rising costs of projects across the state and the finalization of the 2024-2033 STIP has placed U-6067 in an uncommitted status, meaning it must compete in the next prioritization process for development of the 2026-2035 STIP.

Express designs are used as an intermediate step in a candidate project's development as it moves through the prioritization process. Express designs provide a high-level concept of a potential solution that aligns with how the project has been submitted for prioritization scoring. This process allows our future STIP's to have better project data and cost estimates which result in a more reliable 10-year improvement program. The express designs in no way circumvent the requirement to go through the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act or State Environmental Policy Act environmental analysis once a project begins the official development process. U-6067 will undergo an exhaustive NEPA/SEPA planning and design process that will include significant coordination with stakeholders and public involvement that may include many different alternatives before an ultimate design is chosen. Since this effort

would likely take 2-3 years, there is not adequate time nor the intent of an express design to adequately define or include every detail of a project's purpose and need. That is the role of the NEPA/SEPA process including analyzing impacts to the natural and human environments. The future project development phase of U-6067 will be the platform to discuss the specific needs of the corridor for bicycles, pedestrians, transit, and vehicular traffic. NCDOT's complete streets policy will apply to this project, and it is important to make sure the ultimate design incorporates features to safely navigate the area for all modes of travel as this corridor demands.

I understand the confusion that goes along with so many different steps in the long life a complicated project such as U-6067 and the frustration with the short time frame to respond to the express design concept. It is important for us to complete the express design process by the end of June to prepare for scoring the project in prioritization 7.0. I want to reiterate that the express design does not dictate what ultimately gets built and we look forward to furthering coordination with the Town of Chapel Hill, City of Durham, DCHC and local stakeholders when the project development process begins at some point in the future.

Brandon Jones, PE
Division Engineer
Division Five
North Carolina Department of Transportation

919-317-4702 office
bhjones@ncdot.gov

2612 N. Duke Street
Durham, North Carolina 27704



Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

From: Melissa McCullough <melissamccnc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 12:02 PM
To: Jones, Brandon H <bhjones@ncdot.gov>; Sandor, John E <jesandor@ncdot.gov>; Upshaw, Ben <bjupshaw@ncdot.gov>; Archer III, Wright <warcher@ncdot.gov>; Edwards, Charles N <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; Wilson, Patrick D <pwilson@ncdot.gov>
Cc: doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Jenn Weaver <Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov>; CH Mayor And Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: [External] NCDOT plan for 15-501 at I-40

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Report suspicious emails with the Report Message button located on your Outlook menu bar on the Home tab.

Dear NCDOT officials,
I am writing for the local Orange-Chatham Group of the NC Sierra Club. We are very concerned that NCDOT is proposing a new design process for 15-501 area, and we ask that this effort be halted, for a number of reasons.

1. The NCDOT is ignoring the robust 2020 process, for which NCDOT worked with the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO, the local governments, and the public. That process resulted in a multimodal corridor transportation plan, which should be respected as a valid process and product.
2. The 2020 MPO plan addressed local priorities, focusing on multimodal opportunities that also aligned with Sierra Club policy: "Transportation investments should focus on improving walking, bicycling and transit connections..." In other words, minimize new road building.
3. This planned road would destroy a designated NC Natural Heritage site. This site is a rare, mature, and uncommon forest type, which we are fortunate to still have inside the city. This type of rare ecosystem merits protection, and the NCDOT should respect its designation and existence.
4. This design is looking at spending immense amounts of money to save drivers **less than a minute** of waiting at stop lights. This amount of funding could go a long way on transit improvements or bike/ped infrastructure, for greater public benefit in line with local priorities.

In short, we ask you to not rush into a process that is unnecessary and wasteful of public funds.

Thank you for this consideration,
Melissa McCullough, Chair
Orange Chatham Group of the NC Sierra Club

Email correspondence to and from this sender is subject to the N.C. Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Jones, Brandon H
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemming; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: [External] Orange County / Durham County 15-501 Redesign

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Jones, Brandon H <bhjones@ncdot.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 8:56 AM
To: Chad Pickens <chad.pickens@gmail.com>; Upshaw, Ben <bjupshaw@ncdot.gov>; Mathis, Lisa D <botldmathis@ncdot.gov>; Fox, Michael S <bot-msfox@ncdot.gov>; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; Pittman, Ebony J <ejpittman@ncdot.gov>; jeboyette@ncdot.com; Sandor, John E <jesandor@ncdot.gov>; White, Julie A (NCDOT) <juliewhite@ncdot.gov>; Wilson, Patrick D <pwilson@ncdot.gov>; Archer III, Wright <warcher@ncdot.gov>
Cc: Allen.Buansi@ncleg.gov; Graig.Meyer@ncleg.gov; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; Mike.Woodard@ncleg.gov; Natalie.Murdock@ncleg.gov; Renee.Price@ncleg.gov; doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; Sue Burke <sburke@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: RE: [External] Orange County / Durham County 15-501 Redesign

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Chad,

Below is the response I sent to Mayor Hemminger on Friday. Thanks.

Mayor Hemminger,

We appreciate the town's response and concerns regarding our express design concept. We know the importance of this corridor to the region and this project will take a lot of effort for proper coordination once we start the future project development phase and we look forward to working with Chapel Hill, Durham, DCHC and the local stakeholders to assure this corridor addresses the needs for all modes of transportation.

U-6067 has been funded in the State Transportation Improvement program since the 2018-2027 STIP and described as an upgrade to an expressway including modifications to the I-40 interchange, a grade separation of Mt. Moriah Road and a new interchange at SW Durham Drive. This description matched 2045 and previously approved Metropolitan Transportation Plans which the project was based upon. Although the same project gained a committed status in the 2020-2029 STIP, rising costs of projects across the state and the finalization of the 2024-2033 STIP has placed U-6067 in an uncommitted status, meaning it must compete in the next prioritization process for development of the 2026-2035 STIP.

Express designs are used as an intermediate step in a candidate project's development as it moves through the prioritization process. Express designs provide a high-level concept of a potential solution that aligns with how the project has been submitted for prioritization scoring. This process allows our future STIP's to have better project data and cost estimates which result in a more reliable 10-year improvement program. The express designs in no way circumvent the requirement to go through the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act or State Environmental Policy Act environmental analysis once a project begins the official development process. U-6067 will undergo an exhaustive NEPA/SEPA planning and design process that will include significant coordination with stakeholders and public involvement that may include many different alternatives before an ultimate design is chosen. Since this effort would likely take 2-3 years, there is not adequate time nor the intent of an express design to adequately define or include every detail of a project's purpose and need. That is the role of the NEPA/SEPA process including analyzing impacts to the natural and human environments. The future project development phase of U-6067 will be the platform to discuss the specific needs of the corridor for bicycles, pedestrians, transit, and vehicular traffic. NCDOT's complete streets policy will apply to this project, and it is important to make sure the ultimate design incorporates features to safely navigate the area for all modes of travel as this corridor demands.

I understand the confusion that goes along with so many different steps in the long life a complicated project such as U-6067 and the frustration with the short time frame to respond to the express design concept. It is important for us to complete the express design process by the end of June to prepare for scoring the project in prioritization 7.0. I want to reiterate that the express design does not dictate what ultimately gets built and we look forward to furthering coordination with the Town of Chapel Hill, City of Durham, DCHC and local stakeholders when the project development process begins at some point in the future.

Brandon Jones, PE
Division Engineer
Division Five
North Carolina Department of Transportation

919-317-4702 office
bhjones@ncdot.gov

2612 N. Duke Street
Durham, North Carolina 27704



Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

From: Chad Pickens <chad.pickens@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 2:55 PM

To: Jones, Brandon H <bhjones@ncdot.gov>; Upshaw, Ben <bjupshaw@ncdot.gov>; Mathis, Lisa D <ldmathis@ncdot.gov>; Fox, Michael S <bot-msfox@ncdot.gov>; Edwards, Charles N <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; Pittman, Ebony J <ejpittman@ncdot.gov>; jeboyette@ncdot.com; Sandor, John E <jesandor@ncdot.gov>; White, Julie A (NCDOT) <juliewhite@ncdot.gov>; Wilson, Patrick D <pwilson@ncdot.gov>; Archer III, Wright <warcher@ncdot.gov>

Cc: Allen.Buansi@ncleg.gov; Graig.Meyer@ncleg.gov; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; Mike.Woodard@ncleg.gov; Natalie.Murdock@ncleg.gov; Renee.Price@ncleg.gov; doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org; sburke@townofchapelhill.org

Subject: [External] Orange County / Durham County 15-501 Redesign

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Report suspicious emails with the Report Message button located on your Outlook menu bar on the Home tab.

NCDOT Representatives:

I write to you today as an Orange County resident and business manager. I was very surprised to see the fast-tracked US 15-501 project with a public comment period so short, I can only speculate that it's intended to circumvent meaningful comment from impacted groups including the Town of Chapel Hill, UNC Health Care, and local residents.

Chapel Hill Mayor Hemminger did a thorough job of highlighting the concerns regarding this project that I share in her letter sent earlier this week. I wanted to reiterate my concerns for the Natural Heritage Area near Eastowne Dr. and in UNC Health's medical center. This design appears to have significant impact, and disregard for, this precious natural resource.

As the chair of the Town of Chapel Hill's Stormwater Management Utility Advisory Board, I'd appreciate the opportunity for our board to discuss, deliberate, and share meaningful comment on this concept, but your abbreviated comment period complicates this.

Please pause this process and bring all impacted shareholders together so that we can make this critical infrastructure redevelopment a positive for all parties involved. Thank you for your consideration.

Chad Pickens
chad.pickens@gmail.com

Email correspondence to and from this sender is subject to the N.C. Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 10:30 AM
To: Angie S
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: Opposition to 15-501 expansion plans

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Angie S <shatas.angie@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 11:59 PM
To: pwilson@ncdot.gov; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; warcher@ncdot.gov; bhjones@ncdot.gov; jesandor@ncdot.gov; bjupshaw@ncdot.gov
Cc: doug.plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Opposition to 15-501 expansion plans

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

Dear NC DOT:

I found out this week about plans to put in a new road (with on/off ramps to I-40!) that would cut directly through a beautifully wooded area, which the Town of Chapel Hill has pledged to protect.

What studies have led you to believe that this road is needed?

I also understand that “the project has bike and pedestrian facilities crossing on- and off-ramps to I- 40.” In no plan should bicyclists and pedestrians be expected to cross free-flowing traffic!

Finally, I understand that transit infrastructure is not being considered, which I find quite shortsighted for any transportation plan.

I am astonished to learn that the plans were being made without the involvement of the Chapel Hill Town Council or - reportedly - anyone outside of the NC DOT.

Certainly one week (May 30 to June 9) is not enough time to gather the input from affected communities, and, as I live very near to Eastowne Dr. in Chapel Hill, I would definitely be in that category. (We certainly have been affected by the traffic noise due to the widening of I-40 in Orange County.)

Everything I read about this project disregards long-standing community priorities. I request that you

- * extend the comment period significantly beyond June 9, such that there is sufficient time for the impacted communities to socialize the proposed changes and collect meaningful feedback
- * work with the impacted communities in Orange and Durham counties to form a proper partnership for these plans going forward
- * explain how your planning process progressed to this stage without meaningful input from the affected communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Angie Shatas
shatas.angie@gmail.com.

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 10:31 AM
To: Fabio B
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: RE: US 15-501 development

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Fabio B <fabiocbinbutter@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 12:46 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Fwd: US 15-501 development

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

As a Durham resident and frequent traveler to Chapel Hill on US 15-501, I am frustrated with the NC DOT's direction and planning of doubling down on car dependency in the area, in spite of the cities' own priorities, and in spite of known health, environmental and quality of life degradations.

US 15-501 is a perfectly pleasant small road in our area, and the last thing we need is more lanes, more interchanges, and more induced demand. (That's before even considering any financial costs, both initial and upkeep)

I suggest they slow down on these plans and taking time to consult with local stakeholders.

Also, please support more alternatives to private car use, such as dedicated bus lanes, additional bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and safer/slower roads for cars.

Thank you!

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 10:34 AM
To: mcclintock.julie@gmail.com
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Sarah Vinas; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: FW: Comments: NC DOT re design plans for 15-501 and I-40 in Chapel Hill
Attachments: MPO.letter1.10.30.2019.pdf

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Julie McClintock <mcclintock.julie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 8:01 PM
To: BOT-MSFOX@ncdot.gov
Cc: Pam Hemminger <phemminger@townofchapelhill.org>; Jamezetta Bedford <jbedford@orangecountync.gov>; Chuck Edwards <cnedwards@ncdot.gov>; allen Buansi <allenbuansi23@gmail.com>; Doug.Plachcinski@dchcmpo.org; JEboyyette@ncdot.gov; Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; CHRIS BLUE <CBLUE@townofchapelhill.org>; dseils@carrboronc.gov; filmon.fishastion@dchcmpo.org; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; arichards@orangecountync.gov; warcher@ncdot.gov; afowler@orangecountync.gov; Fred Lampe <fredrl@icloud.com>; Michael Parker <mparker@townofchapelhill.org>; Camille Berry <cberry@townofchapelhill.org>; Graig Meyer <grraig@grraigmeyer.com>; Mary Jane Nirdlinger <mnirdlinger@townofchapelhill.org>; Jean Hamilton <jeancatherinehamilton@gmail.com>; emckee@orangecountync.gov; Bergen Watterson <BWatterson@townofcarrboro.org>
Subject: Comments: NC DOT re design plans for 15-501 and I-40 in Chapel Hill

June 8, 2023

Chair Michael Fox
NC Department of Transportation

Dear Mr. Fox,

We send the following comments on NC Department of Transportation's (DOT) proposed "improvements" for the I-40 –15/501 intersection. We urge you to remove this proposed plan design from consideration, meet with our town officials, and extend the deadline for comments.

The DOT plans propose a "North Quadrant Road" over I-40 that would connect New Hope Commons shopping center and Walmart with Eastowne and that would ruin the 20 acre site that is a North Carolina Natural Heritage property treasured by Chapel Hill and Durham residents. The plans also would realign the I-40 on- and off-ramps to connect to the new road and construct a diverging diamond interchange at I-40 and US 15-501.

We recommend the removal of the proposed "North Quadrant Road". A recent official assessment by a Natural Heritage Program expert rated this tract "worthy of preservation in its natural condition, through whatever means are feasible." The proposed new road would bisect the forest and destroy the significant biodiversity of this forest. This forest is one of the best examples of an old dry mesic oak-hickory forest east of the Appalachian Mountains in North Carolina.

Secondly, the proposed road plan with multiple new ramps would destroy conservation plans made by several affected jurisdictions – Orange County, Durham, and Chapel Hill. Ever since the 1980's the city and county of Durham has put money toward the acquisition of land in the riparian areas of New Hope Creek. In addition, Chapel Hill has acquired several tracts in Dry Creek with Clean Water Trust monies. Dry Creek feeds into New Hope Creek connecting to Durham County lands and a large network of wildlife corridors. Eastowne Associates received a conservation tax credit from the State for the donation of several parcels. The affected jurisdictions have successfully planned a wildlife corridor (funded by Orange County) for the future. The proposed road configuration would decimate this corridor at a critical juncture. The Corridor Study documents the resources and species that measure ecological health. See link: "[*A Landscape Plan for Wildlife Habitat Connectivity in the Eno River and New Hope Creek Watershed.*](#)"

Thirdly, in considering priority projects for funding, this is one project that is not sought by Chapel Hill. DOT has not made a satisfactory justification for spending an estimated \$100+ million for a transportation project with the small benefit of saving seconds at one red light, especially when compared to the high financial costs and the loss of wildlife habitat and forests in need of protection.

We encourage the DOT to consider comments taken during and after a major Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro MPO presentation of options held in 2019. The MPO received many negative comments about the three options presented then, including the 2019 comment letter attached. At the same time, Chapel Hill Mayor Hemminger communicated her objection to the MPO for adding new roads in this location.

Finally, please allow the public more time to give input about why these project designs are incompatible with our Town's goals and current plans.

Thank you!

Signatures so far,

David Adalsteinsson

David Adams

Chuck Berlin

Lisa Brach

Linda K. Brown

Chris Deschene

Susan Elmore

Deborah Finn

Lindsay Garrison

Virginia Gray

Anthony Henage

Tom Henkel

Charles Humble

Jody Jaroway

Amey and David Kiel

Fred Lampe

Julie McClintock

Molly McConnell

John Morris

Pamela Schutz

Dan Sissors

Leigh Thorne

David Tuttle

Neva Whybark

Diane and Robert Willis

Terry Vance

Gordon Whitaker

October 30, 2019

Leta Huntsinger,
Manager, Transportation Systems Planning, WSP
Consultant to Durham–Chapel Hill–Carrboro MPO

Dear Ms. Huntsinger,

Thank you for hosting the public workshop “Reimagining 15-501” corridor workshop on October 17, 2019.

First a few comments on the format and the process:

(1) We are aware the MPO has adopted a timetable for coming up with an updated Master Plan early next year. However, it seems like an inefficient process to take input on plans that do not take into account existing land use plans in Chapel Hill. Further, the Town of Chapel Hill is undergoing a land use planning process to adopt a future Land Use Map. Presenting transportation options before the Town has determined its future land use plans is backwards, wasteful of money and time, and won’t yield a satisfactory project.

(2) A number of us from Chapel Hill appreciated seeing the large overhead views of the corridor laid out on the display tables. Thank you. However, it took a bit of searching to find this material at <https://www.reimagining15501.com/library> in order to confirm the observations we made during the workshop. Please make these maps easier to find from the Project “home” page.

(3) We are wondering why there was no presentation of the highlights of the proposed options for the corridor redesign — just displays listing the “options” with little detail. The lack of a formal presentation made it difficult to understand the true differences between the three options on display or to learn from questions as the attendees hear the answers. Many of the planners present seemed to have little knowledge about the display boards nearest Chapel Hill.

Now for some substantive comments relating to the three alternatives:

(1) All 3 options shown for the 15-501 intersection at I-40 propose a “North Quadrant” road directly through a North Carolina Natural Heritage Area treasured by Chapel Hill residents. A recent official assessment by a Natural Heritage Program expert rated this tract “worthy of preservation in its natural condition, through whatever means are feasible.” Further, the tract adjoins conservation lands owned by the Town of Chapel Hill and acquired with Clean Water Trust monies and is connected to Durham County lands and a larger network of conserved lands. Such a road would bisect the area and destroy the significant biodiversity of this forest, which is one of the best examples of an old dry mesic oak- hickory forest east of the Appalachian Mountains in North Carolina.

Thus, we recommend that the proposed North Quadrant road over I-40 (that would connect New Hope Commons shopping center and Walmart with Eastowne) and runs through the Natural Heritage Area be removed from consideration.

(2) In earlier meetings the Chapel Hill Town Council and citizens who attended the information meetings expressed their dislike of super streets which require massive amounts of concrete and greatly favor through traffic over neighborhood streets, pedestrians and cyclists. Yet every alternative option uses them. We recommend that the engineers come back with options that do not employ super streets or add additional streets and highways.

(3) Alternatives #1 and #2 only focus on roads and do not employ a public transit component. Chapel Hill must be given time to develop its goals for 15-501 before options are brought forward again. Alternative #3 is the only one that can be seriously considered because it has a bus rapid transit component, but this plan has serious flaws.

(4) Given the number of new businesses along Segment 1, it seems likely that these options will not be supported as they would present barriers to all the businesses and neighborhoods on either side. These plans do not take into account the new Eastowne Medical campus or the new design work for the entrance to Wegmans. In fact, it is impossible to make a left turn from the Wegmans entrance.

(5) The MPO alternatives do not take into account the present uses or the likely future uses of the corridor. We already know some areas of office and retail, but the majority use is very much residential. Does the DOT know that the Town has recently approved over 1600 new residences along this corridor as part of the Blue Hill District alone?

(6) We do not recommend the diamond configuration used at I-40/15-501 in these plans as they are notoriously bad for bicyclists and are counter intuitive for drivers. See definition of the “diamond configuration” below.*

(7) We would like to see the super street intersection at Sage Road (by Lowes) be reconsidered as a high capacity roundabout as shown at several intersections in the South Gate area of Durham after the split of 15-501 heading to I-85, Chapel Hill Blvd and Martin Luther King Blvd. A roundabout at Sage and Fordham would be a good way to handle the odd intersection that exists there today where Old Durham Road also complicates things.

(8) There is insufficient resolution in the map images to fully understand the proposed revision to the merge of Franklin St with Fordham (15-501). The funneling of 4 lanes of traffic into just 2 lanes is a major bottleneck already today for traffic leaving Chapel Hill heading for I-40.

(9) We are interested that the Durham end of 15-501 employs roundabouts and streets designed to slow traffic. We will recommend to the Town of Chapel Hill that they feature this approach in their land use discussions in the 15-501 area; we think these

transportation solutions may fit better with the intended uses already built into segment one.

These alternatives are not ready for consideration by decision makers. Before the MPO weighs in with alternatives, more work is needed. MPO plans must include the new UNC Health campus and the high-volume Wegmans access. But this is only a start. Chapel Hill needs to figure out what it wants from DOT and the MPO and put more time and thought into its land use goals and objectives, following the demise of the light rail. The newly commissioned TIA for the UNC Health campus will inform future MPO recommendations.

We recommend that the MPO get up to date on what is already planned and await the results of the Chapel Hill land use plan before pressing ahead with proposed solutions. What appears on these MPO plans seems to be the result of piecing together various STIP elements, rather than a practical thoughtful plan. Please revise your schedule to allow for this to be accomplished.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Concerned Chapel Hill residents,

Charles Humble
Fred Lampe
Julie McClintock

And these additional signers:

Richard (Pete) Andrews
Richard Chady
Sylvia Clements
Deborah and Arthur Finn
Lindsay Garrison
Ed Harrison
Tom Henkel
Bruce Henschel
Livy Ludington
John N. Morris
Dan Sissors
David Tuttle
Neva Whybark

**NCDOT Diamond Interchange Visualization
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HD-0QnUILOQ>

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 10:34 AM
To: jmw3524@gmail.com
Cc: Britany Waddell; Judy Johnson; Corey Liles; Sarah Vinas; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: FW: Destructive changes to 15-501 being studied by NC DOT
Attachments: Areas Affected by Loss of MMR Connection to 15-501.pdf

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Michael Waldroup <jmw3524@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 5:06 PM
To: Jenn.Weaver@hillsboroughnc.gov; doug.plachcinski@dchcmo.org; javiera.caballero@durhamnc.gov; leonardo.williams@durhamnc.gov; Wendy Jacobs <wjacobs@dconc.gov>; Karen Howard <karen.howard@chathamnc.org>; Pam Hemminger <phemminger@townofchapelhill.org>; Michael Parker <mparker@townofchapelhill.org>; damon.seils@gmail.com; elaine.o'neal@durhamnc.gov
Cc: citycouncilonly@durhamnc.gov; Commissioners@dconc.gov; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Re: Destructive changes to 15-501 being studied by NC DOT

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report click the [Phish Alert Button](#)

1. I would like to object in the strongest possible terms to not just (i) the latest proposal from NC DOT for future changes to the stretch of 15-501 from the I-40 interchange to the crest of 15-501 before it runs down to the New Hope Creek bridge but also (ii) the manner in which it was introduced into public discourse.

This proposal for improvements to 15-501 for NC DOT to study has caught a great number of people locally by surprise, but NC DOT's claim is that this is a (i) design developed solely for pricing purposes, to be followed by (ii) 'scoring' against other statewide projects for consideration of funding, but which might never be built to the plan on the table all seems very innocent, of course.

But it is the foot in the door, the nose under the tent, the driving end of the wedge....and should totally unacceptable to the two communities, which makes the top-down process and the amount of money that will spent on a DOA project seem all that much more wasteful.

2. If one ever needed a textbook example of a an auto-promoting scheme serving the "to (I-40) and through traffic" auto interests on 15-501 at the expense of (i) having roads serve local land use and (ii) the myriad of other non-automotive mobility interests in the I-40 x 15-501 "four quadrant" (4Q) area, the plan that surfaced earlier this week would be it.

3. As I see it, one of the deep flaws of this latest plan is the severing of connections between Mt. Moriah Rd. (MMR) and 15-501 - very similar to the what was presented as the 2nd edition of the "15-501 Corridor Master Plan" was being wrapped up.

At the public hearing for the 15-501 Corridor Master Plan v.2 recommendations, where the 15-501 section on either side of I-40 was 'carved out' and the recommendation made that this stretch of 15-501 be subject to another study that took into account the extensive and vocal objections expressed with written communication to Board Members and during the public comment period, it was clear that **Durham** hotels and restaurants, particularly on the south side of 15-501, were extremely concerned about losing a direct connection between MMR and 15-501.

I think you can anticipate hearing the same objections from the same group of business owners next week.

Below is an exhibit showing the very significant area of the Patterson Place Compact Neighborhood (PPCN) and some of the viable business occupants on the south side of 15-501 that would be seriously affected by severing the connection between Mt. Moriah Road and 15-501.

I hope that it will be possible to speak to this issue at next Wednesday's MPO meeting.

Please do not hesitate to call with your comments or questions.

Contact information is below.

FYI - I prefer contact through (i) **phone calls** over (ii) **text messages** to (919) 225-3956, *particularly when time is of the essence in connecting*

I generally respond to email only when I can get back to my desk.

J Michael Waldroup

Boulevard Properties LLLP

3307 Watkins Rd. Ste 113

3307 Watkins Rd. Ste 101 (PMB 113)

(USPS & overnight - no Sunday deliveries)

Durham, NC 27707

(919) 225-3956 (cell)

jmw3524@gmail.com

mikewald@mindspring.com

Many thanks.....

Please do not hesitate to call with your comments or questions.

Contact information is below.

FYI - I prefer contact through (i) **phone calls** over (ii) **text messages** to (919) 225-3956,
particularly when time is of the essence in connecting
I generally respond to email only when I can get back to my desk.

J Michael Waldroup

Boulevard Properties LLLP

3307 Watkins Rd. Ste 113

3307 Watkins Rd. Ste 101 (PMB 113)

(USPS & overnight - no Sunday deliveries)

Durham, NC 27707

(919) 225-3956 (cell)

jmw3524@gmail.com

mikewald@mindspring.com

Areas of Patterson Place Compact Neighborhood Affected by Loss of Mt. Moriah Connections to US 15-501

ORANGE COUNTY
DURHAM COUNTY

Proposed 67' Extension of Exist. Double 6'XC' RCBC

-DR3- Sta. 13+00±

INTERSTATE
40

WalMart

Multiple retail

Dick's Sporting Goods

-Y14- Sta. 10+60±

future apartments

Retail & food

Barnes & Noble

-Y3- Sta. 578+40±

New Hope Commons Dr

Retaining Wall #9

Nanu

Bicycle Chain

2294 Mt. Moriah Rd

No connection between Mt. Moriah and 15-501

No connection between Mt. Moriah and 15-501

No connection between Mt. Moriah and 15-501

No connection between Mt. Moriah and 15-501

Retaining Wall #1

US 15-501 Service Rd

Outback

Five Guys & Moes SW Grill

Habitat Restore

Bob Evans

AT&T

Duke Clinics

Kanki

Applebees

Blaze Pizza

Clean Eatz

Duck Donuts

Lady Janes

Soho Nails

Comfort Inn

Homewood Suites

new food

new food

Springhill Suites

INTERSTATE
40

Staybridge Suites

Home Depot

576 existing & future apartments

Kohl's Bed Bath & Beyond

15-501 U-6067 Draft Conceptual Design 2023/05/16 (1)