



Office of Mayor Pam Hemminger
Town of Chapel Hill
415 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-968-2714

October 22, 2021

Council Colleagues,

Attached please find a petition from Matt Gladdek on behalf of the Downtown Partnership board asking that the Town explore taking over the downtown portion of Franklin Street.

This request builds on work the Town, Downtown Partnership and university have been doing to bring new energy to downtown and to support local businesses. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), which currently controls the road, has already signaled that, should an agreement be reached, their agency would continue to maintain the portion of Franklin Street from downtown to I-40.

Having local control of this very important street in our downtown would make a tremendous difference for our entire community. Currently, the Town must ask NCDOT for approval to do most things including closing the street temporarily, expanding sidewalk dining and installing temporary art or permanent markers on sidewalks.

Local control would open up more options for designing bicycle and pedestrian facilities to make Franklin Street safer and more enjoyable for bicyclists and pedestrians. Additionally, it would allow the Town to mitigate flooding that occurs in the area by improving stormwater management in the area.

I am excited by the opportunity for Chapel Hill to own our main street and would greatly appreciate your support for having our staff begin investigating this quickly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Hemminger".

Pam Hemminger