

# Resolution

## **Initiation of UDO Amendments: Connectivity and Block Lengths**

WHEREAS Sections 3.19.1.C and 3.19.2.C of the Durham Unified Development Ordinance each state that “a request to amend the text of this Ordinance may be initiated by the... Planning Commission...”; and

WHEREAS Sections 3.19.1.C and 3.19.2.C of the Durham Unified Development Ordinance each state that “when a text amendment is initiated, the Planning Director, or designee, shall draft an appropriate ordinance and present that ordinance to the Planning Commission”; and

WHEREAS Section 160D-301(b)(2) of the North Carolina State Statutes states that the Planning Commission holds the power “to develop and recommend policies, ordinances, development regulations, administrative procedures, and other means for carrying out plans in a coordinated and efficient manner”; and

WHEREAS Policy 2.4.2b. Connectivity, of the Durham Comprehensive Plan states that, “through the Unified Development Ordinance, encourage that new development and redevelopment provide internal and external pedestrian and vehicular connectivity within and between individual development sites to provide alternative means of access; and

WHEREAS short blocks and connected streets are a planning “best practice,” and the subject of hundreds of peer-reviewed journal articles, which find that connected streets and short blocks enhance and improve travel options, public health, and environmental sustainability (Geoff Boeing (2020): *Off the Grid...and Back Again?*, Journal of the American Planning Association); and

WHEREAS cities around the state and the country have adopted and refined maximum block length standards and minimum connectivity requirements; and

WHEREAS numerous rezoning cases within the past two years have included developer-proposed proffers limiting block lengths on sites;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Durham City-County Planning Commission propose the attached UDO text amendment and, upon a motion and vote of approval, hereby initiate the text amendment process.