



Durham Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Durham Transportation Department · 101 City Hall Plaza · Durham, NC 27701
DurhamBPAC@DurhamNC.gov | @DurhamBPAC

September 19, 2023

Wade Walcutt
Assistant Director, Planning & Development
Durham Parks and Recreation
400 Cleveland Street
Durham, NC 27701

Dear Mr. Walcutt,

The Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) is a citizens group whose purpose is to advise Durham's City Council and Board of County Commissioners on bicycle and pedestrian issues. This commission provides this letter in support of the Durham Bike Co-Op's (DBC) request for a decision regarding their request for a new lease by January 31, 2024, or sooner. BPAC would like to emphasize the need to support organizations like DBC in order to promote bicycle adoption and safety, which helps Durham become a more sustainable, safe, and comfortable place to live.

DBC volunteers support the broadest possible spectrum of Triangle residents. Members give valuable maintenance assistance that enables a large population of riders to participate in healthy outdoor recreation and own a low cost means to travel to work. DBC has outfitted its Duke Park workshop with a wide variety of bike repair tools, stands, parts and an environment that allows new and experienced users to safely maintain their bikes. This citizen initiative is an important part of a larger area-wide effort aimed at improving public health and the environment.

In 2022, various DBC programs returned more than 580 roadworthy bicycles to the community at large from the 1,124 bicycles the community donated to it.

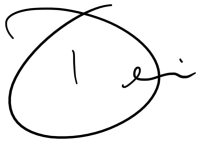
The time and work that DBC members contribute to helping Durham citizens benefits our community. Bikes are repaired; relationships are built; instruction is shared, and low cost bike maintenance is accessible to all.

DBC is able to provide low-cost assistance because the Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Durham has provided a low cost contract for their work site at 1612 Acadia Street, immediately North of Duke Park. A significant investment of time and capital has been made in this property over the last 8 years to continue the mission of DBC, with over \$70,000 raised for property maintenance and improvements.

The current contract expires March 31, 2025. DBC is considering a series of capital-intensive property improvement initiatives, but these have been placed on hold pending a decision on the next contract. Continuing to work out of the Acadia Street location is a key factor in the long-term strategy and ongoing

success of this Co-Op, so the DBC Board has requested a decision by January 31, 2024, or sooner. A new contract with a term of at least 10 years is welcome, and a longer contract is preferred. With a new contract in place, or a MOU outlining the City's intention, DBC can move forward on plans for property improvements and will continue to provide low-cost public assistance for bike repair and distribution. The alternative is the Co-Op will need to begin the search for alternate facilities that will provide the location, cost and functionality needed to maintain the DBC mission. DBC's strong preference is to stay at the current site, as this site has a safe bicycle connection to the Duke Park Trail. Please consider this request for a quick decision on the lease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deniz". The signature is enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Deniz Aydemir
Chair, Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission