



September 22, 2010

Elm City Cycling, Inc.  
P.O. Box 206582  
New Haven, CT 06520-6582

City Plan Commission  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

Re: Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Section 29 and Section 45

Dear City Plan Commission Members:

The Board of Elm City Cycling has prepared this letter to express our support of the proposed zoning ordinance amendments to Section 29 and Section 45, which would require the provision of bicycle parking where 10 or more motor vehicle spaces are provided. While we support the proposed amendments, we feel that they could be greatly improved with a few minor changes.

These amendments will bring several benefits to residents and visitors. The greater provision of high-quality bicycle parking will give more transportation options to more people, will reduce the demand for automobile travel within the city, and help to reduce the incidence of bicycle theft.

While the amendments, as written, will provide numerous benefits with little cost, the City of New Haven may be missing a greater opportunity. Specifically, if the amendments were rewritten to allow developers and property owners to take a reduction in the amount of automobile parking required in exchange for providing bicycle parking, the City and its residents would see a number of positive outcomes. A reduction in the amount of automobile parking would require less land for the same amount of development and thereby bring down development costs; these savings would ultimately be passed along in the form of lower housing costs and lower commercial rents. Reduced requirements for automobile parking via increased bicycle parking would give developers and property owners more flexibility in terms of site design, which would allow a greater number of sites to be reused and redeveloped. Finally, reducing automobile parking in favor of increased bicycle parking will decrease the amount of impervious surface on a site, and therefore decrease storm water runoff.

We thank the City and the Commission for working to improve conditions for cyclists throughout the New Haven and hope that our support and our recommendations will be taken into consideration as these amendments move forward.

Very truly yours,

