



*Asheville on Bikes*  
RIDE YOUR CITY

October 12, 2020

Asheville on Bikes  
26 Sunrise Dr  
Asheville, NC 28806

Debra D. Campbell  
Asheville City Manager  
City of Asheville  
70 Court Plaza  
Asheville, NC 28801

Dear Debra Campbell,

I've been excited to see the River Arts District Transportation Improvement Plan (RADTIP) nearly be completed and have enjoyed watching more and more people enjoy it, but recently I've been concerned about issues of poor stormwater drainage and water pooling on the multi-use path (MUP) and the two way protected cycle track. Some issues of pooling extend more than 20' in length and are nearly 1.5" in depth. I'm bringing this directly to your attention in the hopes that this safety issue can be rectified as the pooling conditions restrict safe movements and pose a direct threat to users, especially during future freeze events. Last winter, [Guido Ernst Roth](#) lost his life in the River Arts District (RAD) due to pooling water and freezing conditions in the right of way. Should the current drainage failures not be resolved, we can anticipate conflicts, injuries, and fatalities to continue in the RAD.

Roughly twenty-four hours after Sunday's rain event (which was below flood stage), I rode both the MUP and the protected cycle track and identified twenty issues of pooling water along both facilities. In several instances, the pooling completely covered the facility's travel widths.

Using my daughter's street chalk, AoB's Ride With GPS application, and my phone, I created the [AoB RADTIP Standing Water Drainage Problems Inspected 10/12/2020 map](#) which identifies the specific locations of each pooling issue. I'm sharing it with you so that you can share it with city staff and the project contractors. I'd be happy to meet with any staff members, in the next forty-eight hours, to walk or ride the RADTIP to review the pooling issues. Staff could also opt to review on their own as each has been identified in chalk. This needs to happen soon as the chalk will deteriorate quickly.



*An example of pooling in the two way protected cycle track obstructing both lanes of travel outlined in chalk.*

AoB is producing a short video and blog post for the public which explains the hazards of pooling and identifies the locations in the RADTIP that will be released this week. I'm sharing with you an [early version](#) as it may assist in identifying pooling locations. I'm happy to answer any questions you or staff may have regarding this issue.

My hope is that the contractor responsible for installing these facilities will agree to rectify these failures to maintain proper grade and drainage.

Respectfully,  
Mike Sule  
Asheville on Bikes

