Safe Streets for All Comments

December 1, 2021

Safe Streets for All is exactly the approach that is required to provide safe and convenient non-motorized transportation opportunities to all our neighborhoods.

The Destinations and Barriers map shows the need for upgrades and maintenance on existing street and trail infrastructure throughout Fairfax County.

We have thousands of miles of streets, all placed of course, where citizens live, work, shop, study, and worship. These streets take citizens to the destinations they need to reach and therefore must be the backbone of enhanced networks for non-motorized travel.

Forests and streams, on the other hand, are in random locations which only occasionally and incidentally have value as transportation routes. Nor do we have enough forests and streams to provide an alternate transportation route network. Our remaining forests and streams, dwindling and fragmented as they are, have inherent value in and of themselves. It is incumbent upon us to conserve this natural heritage for future generations instead of even further fragmenting and degrading it. The responsibility for forest conservation is even more apparent in this time of looming climate crisis, when our world needs every carbon-storing tree we can save. The Cinder Bed Road Bikeway is an example of a project that should not go forward, located as it is in forest, floodplain, and sensitive wetlands with existing alternate routes readily available.

On the topic of existing infrastructure in need of maintenance, we would like to mention one location of particular concern to the Friends of Accotink Creek – the connection from the Cross County Trail to the north side of Little River Turnpike. This connection came into existence with the creation of the 495 Express Lanes, but unlike the connection on the south side, it has never been formally maintained. It has severely eroded to the point of being unfit for pedestrian or bicycle travel. Simultaneously, this erosion is pouring sediment into the adjacent Accotink Creek, which thwarts County goals for the preservation of the health of our streams and of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Friends of Accotink Creek urge that Safe Streets for All focus on safety where it is needed – on our existing network of streets and trails.

Sincerely,
Friends of Accotink Creek : : www.accotink.org : :
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#SaveFairfaxTrees

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