Draft Remarks on the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway

Members of the Board of Supervisors,

The Friends of Accotink Creek strive to be the voice of Accotink Creek and the last remaining woods and wetlands in its wider watershed.

Too often, that voice is drowned out by louder voices asking to slice away just a little bit more of the forest, to intrude just a little further into the wetlands, in fulfillment of some purpose deemed to be of such overriding necessity that the sacrifice is fully justified.

There is no such overriding necessity for the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway, a plan:

- To pave through floodplain forest when existing paved on-street alternate routes already exist nearby.
- To intrude into the Newington Conservation Area, designated by Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for preservation of rare habitats.
- To put in peril that same precious globally rare wetland habitat, Coastal Plain Acidic Seepage Swamp, of which we are the guardians.
- To require moving the tributary stream, Long Branch, at one point to accommodate pavement directly on its banks.
- To introduce light trespass in natural habitats, disrupting the life cycles of wildlife large and small.
- To exacerbate the damage being done right now in the same place by the Franconia to Lorton Third Track railroad project.
- To burden citizens with eternal maintenance responsibilities for a marginal recreational trail in a floodplain where it will be battered by repeated inundations year after year.

It is time to adopt a "Plan B" without intrusion into the Newington Conservation Area, without artificial lighting in our natural habitats, and without loss of those habitats.

The forests of this county have conceded all but a sliver of their former greatness to our insatiable desire for pavement. Please say “Enough!”. Please preserve this most precious and rare habitat in our trust. Please forego the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway, and all similar projects.

Friends of Accotink Creek