

Speaker 1

I speak tonight representing the Friends of Accotink Creek. I have spoken here before on the unfortunate case of the [Cinder Bed Road Bikeway](#).

*“Down, down, down into the darkness of the grave
Gently they go, the beautiful, the tender, the kind;” **

The fish, the toad, the fern, the sycamore, the maple;
Down they go, for our convenience, for our whims, for our sins;

Down they go, that we adults may ride our toys atop their tombs.

Will there ever come a time when we say, “Enough asphalt! Now is the time to preserve our forests!”? We must look at the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway, proposed to cut through forest, floodplain, and even to infringe on globally rare wetlands, and say that time has come.

In the view of the Friends of Accotink Creek, the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway was:

- Wrong from the inception
- Wrong to impair streamside Resource Protection Areas while taxing citizens to fix impaired streams
- Wrong to regard globally rare wetlands as an obstacle, rather than a natural treasure whose preservation is in our trust
- Wrong to transgress the [Newington Conservation Site](#), established by the Commonwealth to preserve that very habitat
- Wrong to introduce harmful all-night lighting to the forest
- Wrong to replace carbon sink forest with heat sink asphalt
- Wrong to replace self-maintaining forest with an eternal maintenance burden
- Wrong to base the planning 100% on guesswork of its usefulness
- Wrong to bypass the nearby existing non-motorized travel routes
- Wrong to abandon our streets as unsafe for people
- Wrong to divert so many millions of dollars that could have funded so many more miles of pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Wrong to throw good money after bad
- Wrong to take private property to accomplish all these wrongs
- Wrong to be a glaring example of nibbling away at our last bits of natural habitat again and again and again, failing each time to acknowledge that each impact is cumulative with all the impacts that have come before and all those that are sure to follow.

Please follow the recent example of Fairfax City and choose alternatives to imposing the pavement and artificial lighting of the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway on these exceptional woods and rare wetlands.

* Dirge Without Music, Edna St. Vincent Millay