

As a commuter cyclist, I oppose building the [Cinder Bed Road Bikeway](#), especially Phase 2. We often hear 'Build it and they will come,' but unlike driving - where car ownership is almost universal and free parking is abundant—cycling remains a niche mode of transport. We have seen the 'build it' experiment fail before. In 2021, Montgomery County turned two lanes on University Blvd over to bikes; after 6 months the lanes were returned to cars mainly because the cyclist volume simply wasn't there.

. On a recent January afternoon, on the W&OD Trail I counted 25 walkers, but just 3 cyclists—only one of whom appeared to be a commuter. On my own 7.5-mile commutes in 2024 between my home and this County Government Building, I never saw more than one other cyclist. At night, that number dropped to zero.

The Fairfax County website, [Commuting Patterns](#) tells us that the percent of County residents who walk to work is 1.5, but less than half of that cycles to work - only 0.3%, These numbers cry out that the vast majority of us are not using bikes for transit.

And this won't change in the near future. Work places aren't set up for cyclists. Cyclists need secure, sheltered bike parking and access to showers.

We certainly don't have anywhere near the number of commuter cyclists to justify inviting bulldozers into our few remaining forests. The Cinder Bed Road Bikeway would come at a massive ecological cost for a negligible transportation gain.

It's baffling to me why any local government would even consider spending public money to go in and destroy part of any of our county's few remaining wetlands forests to build something not only not needed but destructive to that whole amenity. The [Newington Conservation Site](#) is a unique habitat - a globally rare seepage swamp with a fragile hydrology. It's a precious piece of our natural heritage. I've been there, it is a special and awesome place, and should be left intact for others to enjoy, our children, our grandchildren.

Please cancel at least Phase 2 of the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway. Building in this Northern segment of such globally rare habitat - I'm sorry but the only thing that comes to mind is ecovandalism.

It should be a top priority of the Board of Supervisors to preserve what rare wetlands forest we are so fortunate to still have in our county. Thank you