

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 8:20 AM

To: bike@montgomerycountymd.gov; mnc-community@mncppc-mc.org;
mjackson3@mdot.state.md.us; info@mobike.org

Subject: Jones Mill Road Issue!

All,

I am both a bicyclist and motorist. Jones Mill Road is extremely dangerous, I think we all agree to that. I have seen 2 car/bike accidents in the past 3 years. Even one is too much. But I see bicyclists with limited lighting and motorists putting on makeup, eating, talking on cell phones. This road has just barely room for 2 cars to pass and any bicycle on the road halts traffic and causes danger to all, particularly during rush hour. Adding to motorists frustration is the fact that we just resurfaced the immediately adjacent hiker/biker trail and the bicyclists refuse to use it. As a bicyclist I always use trails where available and personally I would avoid using this road, ever. But the bicyclists seem to be arrogant that they have right of way and I think they are at fault on this road. They already have a trail, why not use it and avoid all this danger. Arrogance in bicyclists is a bit self-defeating. All it would take is an arrogant bicyclist and a motorist with road rage and guess who would be hurt most in that battle. I love my bicyclists and don't want to see them hurt. This solution seems so simple. Yes, I understand the road bike issue and the guys with training for race issues. I see some appropriate things on weekends. I also see huge gaggles of 40-50 bicycles completely blocking the road - not courteous and definitely not sharing--arrogance again. But during weekdays and particularly during rush hours, I just see arrogance by the bicyclists, with no concern for sharing the road with cars. I see bicyclists in danger and frustrated motorists almost every bike day.

IS it right for the bicyclists to force sharing a non sharable road when they have a trail right there? Just my opinion and what I as a bicyclist do in that same area. If they ever widen the road and put in a bike lane then things change. But why would the county spend money for that, when they have a road for cars - not designed for bike sharing - and a trail for bikes that is recently resurfaced? Perhaps we organize a campaign to put up road signs stating (no bicycles, use trail). Yes, I ride that trail on bicycle almost every Mon, Wed, Fri and Saturday and drive that road every weekday. Reality / common sense check needed!

Thanks for listening. Perhaps you can clarify if I am off base in my thinking here.

These are my personal opinions and do not reflect the opinions of [government agency].