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As an avid cyclist living in Thornbury I am writing you from Pinellas County Florida where we are escaping some of Thornbury's winter.

I support all the petitions below requesting that paved bike lanes be added to all roads in the Blue Mountain area that are frequently used by cyclists.

As one of the original directors of the board that developed the Georgian Trail I also think it is time to pave the Georgian trail so it can serve a broader recreation use & give road cyclists an alternative to the dangerous Hwy 26.

I find it amazing that we are still having this discussion because it was my impression that the local Councils had some years ago agreed that paving the shoulders of bike routes was a priority. As I see it the only impediment to this is the initial cost, but as I am sure you know other jurisdictions have shown paved shoulders to be cost effective in the long run.

Also with the increasing number of cyclists, the safety for cars & cyclists must become a priority before we start to have serious casualties.

The value accommodating bikes on our roads to our tourist industry has already been demonstrated by events like the Centurion. However when you read the current blogs from the cycling clubs, they love our area as a potential cycling destination but wonder why cycling has not been embraced by the various local Councils who give the impression that cars are the only vehicles that should be on the road & the growing number of bikes in our area are a nuisance.

Pinellas County Florida where we are vacationing has over 100 miles of paved off road non motorized trails. As well, most of the scenic & connector roads, even the multi-lane ones, have paved bicycle lanes. When you read the literature here & observe the amount of related business you see that Biking is a big part of Tourism in this area. The population here locally to support cycling is greater than ours but the population they draw from is a fraction of what we have.

There is lots more to say in favour of accommodating cyclists & hopefully the will to do this will soon be embraced by Council & stop being such an uphill battle for the advocates.

Thank you for Listening

Doug Norman