



City Council

March 7, 2023
Packet Addendum #1

From: [Danielle Fagan](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Two Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 10:57:58 AM

City Council,

As a fire survivor of Cornerstone neighborhood, please approve Resolution No. 14, Series 2023, approving an Amendment to the Cornerstone PUD regarding fence regulations. Folks in the neighborhood have worked really hard to come up with this carefully thoughtful plan, please pass it and give us one less thing to worry about.

Secondly, as an avid runner in our beautiful Louisville, I strongly oppose to paving any of the Coal Creek Trail. There are not enough trails in our community as it is and paving any part will take away another option. Hearing about this potentially happening is extremely disappointing and concerning.

Danielle Fagan

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Memorandum

To: Louisville City Council
From: Louisville Open Space Advisory Board
Date: October 13, 2022
Re: Coal Creek Trail paving CIP

Purpose:

Recently it was brought to the attention of the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB) that there is a proposal to pave an approximately half mile section of the Coal Creek Trail (CCT) between US 36 and Dillon Road. This project would replace the existing crusher fines (gravel) trail with a wide concrete path at a cost of up to \$720,000 (when accounting for contingencies). We as a board feel that this paving project is not just unnecessary and wasteful, but actively harms a major portion of the amazing trails network that makes our city such a wonderful place.

Background:

Our rationale for not supporting this project are as follows:

1. Changing from the existing crusher fines (gravel) surface to concrete would significantly and negatively impact the user experience. A paved path here undermines the concept of the open space land through which it passes. User feedback on recent paving projects within the city (including two on the Coal Creek Trail at Dutch Creek and southwest of Community Park) as well as in the County (the Meadowlark Trail's new recycled asphalt surface) shows a clear desire on the part of trail users to have soft surface trails.
2. The CCT from Superior to Erie is generally a soft surface trail and we would like to minimize further changes in the character of the trail within the city limits of Louisville. The regional nature of the trail, in fact, means that Louisville should really not be making major changes without getting input from other partners such as Superior, Lafayette, Erie, and Boulder County.

3. The town of Superior recently rebuilt their adjacent section of the CCT between US 36 and McCaslin Blvd to a network of concrete paths and have drastically altered the user experience there. We should not do the same.
4. Paving this half mile of trail does not solve any existing or plausible future maintenance issues. Unlike other short sections of the CCT which are being paved to prevent future erosion damage, this stretch of trail does not suffer from erosion or washouts from flood events. City staff is also not aware of any safety issues related to that section of trail that would be addressed by moving from a gravel to concrete surface.
5. This is not an OSAB priority in any way. It has never appeared in any list of future projects and does not appear in the 2019 City of Louisville Transportation Master Plan. OSAB has several high-priority items relating to the city's trail system which would be a much better use of the allotted funding than an unnecessary paving project here. Indeed, the monies required for this paving project would *more* than fund OSAB's #1 priority project, the wayfinding proposal (replacing and upgrading the city's open space and parks signage and trail maps) several times over (the current estimate for the wayfinding project is about \$300,000).
6. Concrete cues trail users that this is sidewalk, not a trail. Citizens already struggle in following the Coal Creek Trail when it leaves the creek corridor and goes into the neighborhoods. Keeping it soft surface will help people recognize it as a trail. This is a part of wayfinding.
7. ADA compliance was cited as a potential reason for paving this section, but this is a misinterpretation of the regulations. ADA rules govern grade, width, and lack of obstacles on the trail, but not the surface type. Numerous other soft-surface ADA-compliant trails exist in the city.
8. This paving project appears to be a remnant of the unfunded 2020 underpasses and transit improvement initiative. This initiative called for, among other things, an underpass under Dillon Road to connect the Powerline Trail to the CCT. With the rest of the underpasses project removed from the budget, it doesn't make sense to keep this one paving project.
9. Finally, we feel strongly that the Open Space Advisory Board should have a chance to advise on any major open space and trails user experience changes such as this before they are budgeted and scheduled

Next Steps:

OSAB is strongly recommending to city council that the US 36 to Dillon road paving of the Coal Creek Trail be removed from consideration for future City of Louisville budgets. In turn, we would like to work with city council to determine the best use of limited parks and open space funds earmarked for trails so that we can focus on work that benefits the community the most.

From: [Jim Fox](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please Do NOT Pave the Coal Creek Trail
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 7:19:21 AM

Hello,

I am a resident of Boulder County and understand that the Louisville City Council is considering paving the section of Coal Creek Trail between Dillon Road and the US 36 bikeway.

Please do not do this. The trail's current soft surface on this section is not a hinderance to bike commuters; they do not lose any speed. Yet the soft surface is absolutely crucial to the 1,000s of walkers, runners and recreational cyclists who enjoy the trail every week. I understand that other than 2013, this section of the trail is not prone to flooding.

So please consider preserving this wonderful unpaved community resource. I suspect the City Council and taxpayers will save a significant amount of money by not paving this trail, as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim

Jim Fox | VERDI Behavioral Marketing | Driving Buyer Behavior
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From: [Eric Cross](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Proposed Paving of the Coal Creek Trail
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 7:41:23 PM

Dear Awesome Louisville City Council Team,

I would like to voice my recommendation in opposition of the paving of the Coal Creek Trail project, for the following abbreviated reasons:

- This is a beautiful, quiet section of trail with a high tree canopy that runs along Coal Creek - I feel like I am somewhere quiet and close to nature along tis trail. Paving this trail with concrete would take away from the remote feeling of this section of the Coal Creek Trail.
- The substantial cost for this should be used for other City needs and upgrades
- I appreciate the City's focus on sustainability, however this falls in direct conflict with that mission. As an example, I am planning to replace my grass via **Resource Central Lawn Replacement**, and they **will NOT provide** a "Garden in the Box" Credit if I were to replace my grass with "impermeable concrete". This says to me "concrete bad, gravel good".
- I appreciate the concrete replacement at Dutch Creek as this area was regularly washed out.
- I hope you value the recommendation of a citizen who regularly uses this segment of trail socially and to commute by bicycle to and from my job in Boulder.

My action request is to please remove the Coal Creek Trail paving item from the consent agenda, and leave that part of the trail as-is.

Thank you for everything you do,

Best Regards,

Eric Cross
797 W Pinyon Way
Louisville, CO 80027

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From: [Suzanne Webel](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please do NOT pave the Coal Creek Trail!
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 4:40:45 PM

Greetings, Mayor and City Council:

I have reviewed all of the pertinent information regarding a proposal to pave the Coal Creek Trail. I urge you to vote NO.

This beautiful multi-use trail is the result of a long process of public involvement and development. For most of its length it follows the tree-shaded riparian corridor of Coal Creek (eventually joining Rock Creek farther east). It provides a calm, peaceful environment for wildlife and people alike. The Coal Creek Trail is much-loved by Boulder County residents and visitors of all backgrounds and means of locomotion, from moms with baby-joggers to senior hikers to equestrians to bikes of all kinds. Everyone seems to get along with each other on the Coal Creek Trail, exchanging pleasant greeting with each other as they enjoy the shared trail experience. The trail's durable crusher-fines surface holds up well with only occasional repairs and perhaps replacement with a harder surface in a few isolated areas where needed.

Paving this trail would be a travesty. It would completely change the character of the area, turning it into a "transportation corridor" which has never been part of the plan and for which there is no clear need.

The Boulder Area Trails Coalition (BATCO) is a 501(C)3 non-profit corporation founded in 1996. Our mission is to promote non-motorized, multi-use, environmentally-responsible trail systems throughout Boulder County and adjoining areas. We believe that multi-purposed trails are a valuable community resource that provide recreational benefits which enhance the quality of life for area residents and visitors alike. We provide significant funding for many trails throughout Boulder County through the sale of our Trails and Recreation Map of Boulder County (the "BATCO Map") and we also provide volunteers for trail planning, trail building, and trail maintenance.

Please preserve the Coal Creek Trail in its current form and vote no on paving it.

Suzanne Webel
President
Boulder Area Trails Coalition (BATCO)

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From: [Celia Mahoney](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Fwd: Award Contract for the 2023 Concrete Replacement Project
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 2:35:47 PM

Subject: Award Contract for the 2023 Concrete Replacement Project

Hi,

I am a resident of Louisville and I'm writing to say please do NOT award the contract for the 2023 Concrete Replacement Project. I frequently run the trails around Louisville and concrete is bad news for runners' feet and knees. In addition I have not noticed this portion of the trail system getting unmanageably muddy so I see no point in surface change. I'd rather the money be spent on maintenance of existing trails.

Thanks, Celia Mahoney

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From: [Rick Simonson](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Rick Simonson](#)
Subject: Proposed Concreting of Coal Creek Trail - Dillon to 36. March 7, 2023 Council Mtg
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 8:18:05 AM

Dear Council Members,

I am active user of virtually all Boulder County Open Space & Mountain Parks. This includes the wonderful array of trails and multi-use paths – both gravel/dirt & concrete paved. The network we have in Boulder County is unmatched anywhere in the United States and is a primary draw for very many of in choosing to live in this area.

A really wonderful distinction of system is the abundance of gravel/dirt trails and roads in addition to the all weather multi-use paths that are concrete. We accommodate the needs of all citizens best by maintaining this incredible mix, with vigilance needed to not pave over more dirt/gravel trails (as that is what inevitably happens across most of America with growth). For many decades the citizens of Boulder County have prioritized open space and a wonderful mx of trails of all surfaces. It is a invaluable resource. Please don't jeopardize it "one small section at a time" by paving with concrete the precious remaining dirt/gravel we have.

I wish to also share a summary list (below) of the reasons why me and so many of my fellow runners, walkers and bikers fell so strongly about this. Let's slow down and not lose sight of what we have and how it can forever disappear so quickly if we are not careful.

I can not attend tomorrow's meeting as I am currently at home with Covid and still testing positive. Please consider my input and add the record of your deliberations.

Best Regards,
Richard (Rick) Simonson
3092 Big Horn St
Boulder, CO 80301

Reasons and Arguments Against Paving with Concrete

1. The paving of the Coal Creek Trail removes a valuable piece of a soft surface trail that is loved by runners, gravel bikers, and others who prefer the more natural experience to that of concrete.
2. The Coal Creek Trail is a regional trail that stretches from Superior to Erie. Although parts of it that are more prone to flooding have been paved by Louisville and other municipalities over the years, it is still primarily a soft surface trail whose user experience would be reduced by more concrete.
3. Generally the paving of trails in the city has been focused on those that are located in neighborhoods or which are prone to flooding during typical rainstorms or high waterway levels. Neither is this case with this stretch of the Coal Creek Trail which, to my knowledge, is only flooded during catastrophic events like the 2013 flood.
4. From an ecological and sustainability point of view, there is a net carbon impact associated

with the mixing and laying of concrete that is not there with the current gravel trail. With the city's push for sustainability, it seems that paving this stretch of trail (and also introducing another hardscape that reduces water absorption by the ground) is not practicing what the city preaches.

5. The cost of this trail (\$600,000 or more) is not advisable in this day and time where the city is having to make hard financial decisions related to COVID impacts and the loss of sales tax revenue from the loss of businesses.
6. The placement of this concrete replacement project into a consent agenda and "ad-alt" item hinders the visibility of the topic and makes it harder to have an open discussion on something that impacts so many citizens.
7. The paving of this part of the Coal Creek Trail was not spelled out in any planning documents such as the transportation master plan. Changing the approach thereby circumvents the standard public input process.
8. Connectivity from a transportation point of view does not necessitate hard surfaces. If hard surfaces are desired, the slower speeds and improved bike lanes on Cherry and Bella Vista that were provided for several years ago help provide a link between 36 and Old Town Louisville. There are also other great corridors such as the Powerline Trail and Pine St. that provide an effective way to get to Old Town.
9. And, finally, this paving project is opposed unanimously by the Louisville Open Space Advisory Board per discussion and a memo to city council from October 2022. OSAB should be one of the primary sources of input in assessing importance for new trails and changes to existing trails.

City Council Agenda Tuesday, March 7, 2023 Council Chambers 749 Main Street 6:00 PM

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From: [J Fitzpatrick](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Coal Creek Trail paving project
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 9:15:49 AM

Dear City Council,

I see that a concrete replacement project item is on the consent agenda for the March 7 city council meeting, including a proposal to pave a stretch of the Coal Creek Trail from the US 36 Bikeway to Dillon Rd. I do serve on the Louisville Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB), which expressed its opposition to the project in a memo to council from October 2022. Today I am writing to voice my concerns about the project as a private citizen.

I am a very active user of the Louisville trail system via a combination of biking, running, and walking. The City's crusher fine trails are a huge benefit to the community, as they offer a soft surface for users like me who have a difficult time using concrete paths due to the physical impact they create. Maintaining this type of surface on trails is essential to the experience of "open space" use, except where concrete already exists or where washouts are a major issue (which is not the case for the Coal Creek Trail).

Additionally, as I understand it, the Louisville transportation master plan created in 2019 was very specific when it comes to recommended new and improved trails and off-street paths throughout the city. This document was well vetted by the community and city staff and it was silent when it came to any changes to this section of the Coal Creek Trail. In order for governing documents like this to be useful and for community voices to be incorporated into City infrastructure decisions, they should be used to help guide future decisions. It seems irresponsible to not move forward with many of the unstarted projects listed in this document and instead proceed with a project that is not called for there.

It is also important to keep in mind that the Coal Creek Trail is a designated regional trail that extends from Superior to Erie and it is well advertised as being a soft surface trail. Although parts of the trail have been paved to alleviate washout concerns from floods and to match the feel of surrounding hardscapes such as in Downtown Superior, those should be the exception and not the rule. Other key concerns for the city are budget and sustainability. Proceeding with this project that is expected to cost \$600,000 or more and which has a significant carbon impact because of the need to manufacture concrete goes against city priorities.

Finally, as I believe Council has heard from others, I am concerned about the City's effort to honoring the public input process and especially the input of our volunteer boards that spend many hours researching issues and providing recommendations to city council. OSAB was very clear in its memo to Council of its opposition to this project and that it would strongly advise that a portion of the cost (NOTE: just a PORTION!) of this project instead be allocated for its long-running #1 PRIORITY of wayfinding (a trail signage initiative). In fact, simply implementing the wayfinding effort would help guide these very road bikers at the heart of this discussion into Old Town Louisville on the existing trail network. In addition, the placement of this concrete replacement project into a consent agenda topic and an "ad-alt" item seems odd given OSAB's opposition and also makes it harder to have an open discussion on something that impacts so many citizens.

Thanks for your consideration. I hope that the city council makes the right decision and moves

this project off of the consent agenda to a regular discussion topic and ultimately does the environmentally, fiscally, and community wise thing by canceling the project.

Sincerely,

Jessamine Fitzpatrick

474 Fillmore Court, Louisville

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C: (415) 531-2520

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From: [Joshua Cooperman](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please do not pave the Coal Creek Trail
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 10:10:36 AM

Dear members of the Louisville City Council,

On Tuesday night your consent agenda includes approval of a contract for the City's 2023 concrete replacement project. Part of this contract calls for the concrete paving of the Coal Creek Trail between US Highway 36 and the Dillon Road underpass. First, I ask that you move this consent agenda item to the meeting's regular agenda; such a change will allow for a proper discussion of this item. Second, I ask that you remove paving this segment of the Coal Creek Trail from the contract; I explain my reasoning just below.

Concrete paving would run counter to the community's expressed desires. The Transportation Master Plan does not identify paving of this segment of the Coal Creek Trail as a community desire. Louisville's Open Space Advisory Board expressed its unanimous opposition to paving this segment of the Coal Creek Trail in a letter to City Council, which, by some oversight, is not included in Tuesday night's meeting packet.

Concrete paving is not necessary for trail upkeep. I often ride my gravel bike on this segment of the Coal Creek Trail. I do not recall encountering any notable trail maintenance issues; accordingly, concrete paving does not seem necessary for keeping this segment in good condition.

Concrete paving would diminish the trail's recreational value. I occasionally ride my town bike on this segment of the Coal Creek Trail as a transport corridor to Superior. While I appreciate the City's concern for bicyclists using the trail for transportation, the Coal Creek Trail is also---and perhaps primarily---for recreation. Paving this segment would diminish the Coal Creek Trail's recreational value, especially for runners, gravel cyclists, and mountain bikers from the several communities along the trail's full extent.

Bicycle commuters already have other options. Bicyclists using this segment of the Coal Creek Trail for transportation also have the dedicated bicycle lanes along Dillon Road at their disposal. While these bicycle lanes do not provide a great connection to Superior, paving this segment would not notably improve these connections. I would be happy to suggest alternatives for improving these connections.

Concrete paving is not necessary for road bicyclists. I do not ride my road bike on this segment of the Coal Creek Trail, primarily because the trail does not provide particularly useful connections to the roads on which I typically ride. Nevertheless, most bicycles, even road bicycles, can handle the trail's current gravel surface. For context, just this past weekend professional road cyclists raced Strade Bianche, a race whose course covers many kilometers of Tuscany's white gravel roads.

Concrete paving would result in notable greenhouse gas emissions. The production of concrete results in considerable greenhouse gas emissions; the transport of concrete results in further greenhouse gas emissions; and the laying of concrete pavement results in yet further greenhouse gas emissions. While concrete is an extremely useful material, we should refrain from unnecessary use of concrete.

A gravel trail adjacent to a paved trail is not a good design. While I appreciate consideration of the possibility of a gravel trail adjacent to concrete pavement, I do not support this possibility. Such a design would complicate traffic patterns; such a design would introduce a potentially dangerous lip between the gravel and concrete surfaces; and such a design would presumably entail widening the trail, resulting in destruction of adjacent natural habitat.

Thanks for reading and considering my comments. Please do not pave the Coal Creek Trail.

Best,
Josh

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From: aliciamahoney@comcast.net
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: RE: 2023 Concrete Replacement Project
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 11:12:44 AM

Greetings!

I am a long time resident of Louisville, and user of the Coal Creek trail. I ask that all of you elect NOT to pave the stretch of the Coal Creek trail being considered tomorrow evening (March 7) in your consent agenda (see pg 14). I run and walk on the Coal Creek trail at least twice a week, and I enjoy it because it is a trail! A path of crushed stone and dirt. It's an important connection to nature for me, and it's a beautiful asset for the City. I walk on concrete sidewalks every day of the week in Louisville but the Coal Creek trail is a special path. It connects me to the natural setting of where I live.

Concrete is for sidewalks. Not trails. Please do NOT pave over the proposed section of the Coal Creek trail!

Thank you,

Alicia Mahoney
1101 Jefferson Avenue

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From: [Bud Talbot](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: coal creek trail: Dillon to 36
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 11:04:30 AM

Greetings-

It has come to my attention that there is a proposal to resurface a section of the Coal Creek Trail from Dillon Rd to US 36, changing it from the current gravel/crusher fines to concrete. I would argue that this is not needed, and moreover that it is a bad idea and poor trail management.

That section of the trail does not need to be hard surfaced. It is not prone to washout, like the section that was recently hard surfaced near the golf course. Having more soft surface (gravel) trails helps with rainwater and snowmelt infiltration.

Also, as a regular trail user I prefer having a mix of trail surfaces, leaning towards more gravel surfaces. Having run and ridden on that section of trail hundreds of times over the years, I can honestly say that there was never a time when I wished it was concrete. On the opposite side of 36 in Superior where the trail is all concrete until the open space, the trail feels like "anywhere USA" rather than a quaint, cool Colorado town. I don't think that is the look and feel we want for our section of the Coal Creek trail, which is such an important part of Louisville's character.

Please keep that section of trail surface gravel, and help keep our town's open space feeling and looking good.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Bud Talbot

[Robert \(Bud\) M. Talbot III, PhD](#) | he/him | Associate Professor of Science Education
co-Director CU Denver STEM Learning Assistant Program
School of Education and Human Development
University of Colorado Denver
303-668-1322 | robert.talbot@ucdenver.edu | robert.m.talbot@gmail.com

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From: [Allison Johanson](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: AWARD CONTRACT FOR 2023 CONCRETE REPLACEMENT PROJECT : Coal Creek Trail Pavement Scope
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 12:46:38 PM

Louisville City Council / Staff:

I wanted to check-in on tonight's City Council Agenda related to the paving of a section of the Coal Creek Trail between Dillion and Hwy 36. There are two perspectives I want to share with you: one is as a Louisville Resident who frequently runs/walks/bikes that section of trail and another as a sustainability professional.

First, over the course of the last 7 years I have called Louisville home, I have used that section of trail throughout every season, on foot, pushing a jogging stroller, on bike, and with my young sons who typically ride their bikes along with me. Thanks to STRAVA data I know that during 2022 I traveled that section of trail nearly 300 times either independently or with my 7 and 5 year old (headed west bound from Louisville to connect to Superior), and the experience I had using that section of trail was immensely positive! Of course there are short amounts of time where traction could be used or it is too sloppy to pass, but this occurrence does not happen outside a couple of months that see significantly less pedestrian/bike use for both recreation and commuting. This section of trail may hold snow longer than others, but it does not sustain significant damage from water events, and even when bike/foot traffic uses it during subpar conditions this dirt is incredibly resilient (wearing boots, putting on fatter tires, and/or giving yourself a bit more time to commute is a much better alternative to concrete). Since more sections of Coal Creek Trail have been paved these last two years in Louisville and Superior, the conditions on those sections during the winter months have been more challenging/dangerous than they were in previous years. Snow crews have not been successful in clearing snow so that the trail is easily passable. Bulletproof ice has remained on these paved sections of Coal Creek Trail for significantly longer times, and freeze thaw makes these sections much more dangerous to recreationalists and commuters. There are ample routes that are already paved in the nearby vicinity that offer great connections to Louisville and Superior. Coal Creek Trail is an amazing asset to our community, and much of the reason for its high use (which was referenced in the City Staff Summary and STRAVA data) is because it is dirt. The suggestion of adding a shoulder of soft surface doesn't help this trail maintain its valuable character or enjoyable nature. It will be packed with plowed snow for much of the winter, and the potential for incidents as people pass/switch surfaces only increases.

As a sustainability professional and former member of the Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board, I question the potential negative impact of this concrete project. Additionally, this project goes against the City's commitment to sustainability/The Sustainability Action Plan and has a clear conflict with recommendations from the Open Space Advisory Board. Concrete, specifically cement, has a significant carbon footprint ([Princeton University Article](#), [Nature Article](#)). Purposefully replacing a high quality/highly usable dirt surface with concrete increases our City's carbon footprint without a clear benefit for our community. I urge City leaders to assess this impact and quantify the cost/benefits from a sustainability perspective before recommending the completion of this project.

I strongly advocate leaving this section of Coal Creek Trail as it is - dirt. It should not be replaced with concrete.

All the best,

Allison

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Allison Johanson
Cell : 563-349-1213

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From: [Ewen North](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Heather North](#)
Subject: Proposed Concreting of Coal Creek Trail - Dillon to 36. March 7, 2023 Council Mtg
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 3:55:13 PM

Dear Council Members,

My wife Heather and myself are residents of Louisville and have been since 2008. We absolutely love it here and one of the many reasons is because of the wide array of open spaces, soft surface trails, bike paths and parks - likely some of the best in the country.

As very active people, being runners, bikers and hikers, we very regularly use Coal Creek trail. This incredible gravel based trail is something we believe to be one of the jewels in the crown that makes up the Louisville area open space - an escape from the urban landscape along a scenic and nature-integrated corridor.

It is therefore extremely disappointing to hear of the proposed concreting over of yet another section from Dillon to the US36 bikeway. While we do understand (due to living only 300 yards from the trail) that certain lower lying sections of the trail are prone to yearly flash flooding and wash out, from our understanding, this proposed section of concreting only succumbed to flooding in the 'one thousand year flood' event that occurred in 2013 and therefore would be unnecessary to concrete over due to flood and wash out risk.

If the actual reason for the proposal then is due to feedback or pressure from bike commuters and road based cyclists requesting a faster link up from Louisville to the US36 bikeway, we cannot support it and implore you to reconsider the proposal.

Our worry is that over time, section upon section of the Coal Creek trail will be concreted over, diminishing what is one of the great joys of being outdoors in the Louisville/Superior/Lafayette area.

Please consider shooting down this proposal to keep what precious soft surface/gravel trails we have in the area for bikers, runners, hikers and dog walkers to enjoy. I'm sure the estimated \$600,000+ cost can be put to much better use on another project within the city to further enhance rather than detract from many reasons to enjoy living here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ewen & Heather North
142 Fairfield Lane
Louisville CO

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Ewen R. North
Director and Head Coach



p. 303-482-6202

e. ewen@revolution-running.com

w. www.revolution-running.com

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From: [Dennis Maloney](#)
To: [Meredyth Muth](#)
Subject: FW: Coal Creek Trail
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 6:32:15 AM

Good Morning,

Please add to council communications.

Thank you,

Dennis

From: Bill <wjstaton@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 7:07 PM
To: Dennis Maloney <DennisM@louisvilleco.gov>
Subject: Coal Creek Trail

Mayor Dennis Maloney,

Through the Nextdoor app on my computer I have been getting emails to oppose the cementing of the Coal Creek Trail from Dillon Rd to US 36. I am not sure what their reasoning is. I am not for having every trail concrete, but I believe this would connect to a trail across from US 36 which I believe is concrete. When connecting to other trails from other municipalities I think we should connect with them using the material that they have already laid down which in this case is concrete. I believe concrete is also the best material for major interconnecting trails. It allows for many people to use it and to cover longer distances. If the major trail behind my place in the Hillsborough North neighborhood was not cement I might still not be able to take walks. I believe with concrete, trails can be opened quicker after snowy weather. Again I am not for every trail being concrete, but the major trails and especially connecting ones should be concrete. I would vote for the Coal Creek Trail from Dillion Rd. to US 36 to be concrete.

Thank you,
Bill Staton
2396 McKinley Ave.
Louisville, CO 80027

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From: [Christopher Leh](#)
To: [Meredyth Muth](#)
Subject: Fwd: Coal Creek Trail
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 10:47:29 PM

Please add to the public record.

Best Regards,

Chris Leh
Councilmember, Ward 1
City of Louisville (CO)
(c) 303.668.3916
Leh@louisvilleco.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bill <wjstaton@comcast.net>
Date: March 6, 2023 at 7:02:23 PM MST
To: Christopher Leh <leh@louisvilleco.gov>
Subject: Coal Creek Trail

Councilmember Chris Leh,
Through the Nextdoor app on my computer I have been getting emails to oppose the cementing of the Coal Creek Trail from Dillon Rd to US 36. I am not sure what their reasoning is. I am not for having every trail concrete, but I believe this would connect to a trail across from US 36 which I believe is concrete. When connecting to other trails from other municipalities I think we should connect with them using the material that they have already laid down which in this case is concrete. I believe concrete is also the best material for major interconnecting trails. It allows for many people to use it and to cover longer distances. If the major trail behind my place in the Hillsborough North neighborhood was not cement I might still not be able to take walks. I believe with concrete, trails can be opened quicker after snowy weather. Again I am not for every trail being concrete, but the major trails and especially connecting ones should be concrete. I would vote for the Coal Creek Trail from Dillion Rd. to US 36 to be concrete.

Thank you,
Bill Staton
2396 McKinley Ave.
Louisville, CO 80027

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From: [Meredyth Muth](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Michiko Christiansen](#)
Subject: FW: Letter for the City council tonight meeting
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 7:38:51 AM
Attachments: [Dear City Council.docx](#)

Hi Michiko,

I have forwarded your email to Council. For future reference you can email them at Council@LouisvilleCO.gov. Thanks.

MEREDYTH MUTH
CITY CLERK | she/her/hers
CITY OF LOUISVILLE, COLORADO
303.335.4536 (OFFICE)
720.762.2491 (CELL)

Please note: all incoming and outgoing emails may be subject to the Colorado Open Records Act, § 24-72-100.1, et seq.

From: Michiko Christiansen <chikochrist@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 7:16 AM
To: Meredyth Muth <meredythm@louisvilleco.gov>
Subject: Letter for the City council tonight meeting

Hi

I m trying to find the link where to sent the letter to the city council for tonight meeting. I have an attachment just in case this goes wrong.
Thank you for your help.

Take care and have a good week!
MIchiko

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Dear City Council:

RE: Coal Creek trail paving

I lived here thirty plus years and I am writing this as a private citizen. I have enjoyed walking on natural trails in the Boulder County. Walking on the simple fine gravel trails, it is down to earth experiences. Walking on a sidewalk with concrete on those type of trails doesn't match the natural experiences and it is ugly.

Sustainability:

Having a concrete/ hardscape will create more problems such as financial cost (plowing, fixing cracks, sinking concrete and rebuild natural habitat), creating more pollution with CO2 emission and it is hard to recycle, upcycle and reuse concrete. Cracks in the concrete will pop up and weeds will grow in them. Using weed whackers, spraying, or covering the cracks is not the answer to Net zero plans. Did you ever communicate with SAB? They are created for that reason.

Solution: Use the fine gravel on the whole Coal creek trail. Louisville has a program for anyone who wants to study on weeds and how to remove it wisely. This program is awesome.

Environmentally:

Destroying the natural habitat, it will become harder to restore grasslands and other plants according to the article in the Daily Camera, dated August 22, 2022, "CU Boulder research: Biodiversity building grasslands take more time to restore than previously thought". Did you communicate with BEE committee? They are created for this reason.

Solution:

Since the city of Louisville has become a BEE city. It is important to have the trails filled with wonderful natural habitat and grasslands.

Liability:

During the snow season, plowing is not the answer because it will create a health issue. If anyone who use the trail with concrete suffer any falls, trips, slips, or flew off their bicycle, can present a liability to the city of Louisville.

Solution: Having fine gravel, the snow itself will melt and the water will feed the natural surroundings leaving no black ice which makes most athletics such as runners, bikers, walkers, and everyone happy.

Health:

Running, walking biking on the concrete trails is not good for our bodies. We will develop health issue. As for mentally, we will grow bored using the concrete trails.

Solution: Putting the whole trail with fine gravel, will give our body more stability while enjoying the natural environment.

My hats off and giving the applause to the Wayfinding team on the OASB performed their unwavering duties by volunteering and sacrificed their time to go out researching the trails. The Wayfinding team are the experts, and the project cost should be given to the Wayfinding team.

Communication is so important to any boards and the community.

It is better to have this project to be cancel and replace by another project involving the whole Coal Creek trail to have the fine gravel.

Thank you for your time and please listen to the boards and the community.

M. Christiansen
543 Adams Ave.
Louisville, CO 80027

.

From: [Susan Cawley](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Proposed Paving of Coal Creek Trail
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 10:15:27 PM

Mayor Maloney and Members of City Council:

It has come to my attention that the 2023 concrete replacement project will be placed on your consent agenda for March 7, 2023. I am concerned about the portion that proposes paving the Coal Creek Trail between Dillon Road and US36. Paving a nice trail like this with concrete will make for a bone jarring and sterile experience for those of us who have been running on this trail for years.

Let's not turn a picturesque Louisville asset into a negative impact area similar to what other nearby communities have done. Please strongly consider the Louisville Open Space Advisory Board comments regarding their opposition to this portion of the concrete replacement project.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Cawley
588 Wildrose Way
Louisville, CO

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From: [Terri Abbott](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Proposed concrete section of the Coal Creek Trail
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 9:09:02 PM

To: The Louisville City Council

From: Terri Abbott
303 South Adams Drive, Louisville, CO 80027
303-818-9134
Resident of Louisville 20 years

I am writing because I was quite alarmed to learn that the City Council has disregarded the position/opinion of the OSAB on the plan to concrete a section of the Coal Creek Trail from Dillon Road to Highway 36.

As a resident and runner who has logged literally hundreds of miles on the CCT, I am wholeheartedly AGAINST any proposal to concrete that large of a stretch. Unfortunately some other communities have chosen to pave their soft-surface trails, making me feel quite fortunate to live in an area that preserved its trails...or so I thought. My aging joints greatly appreciate not having to run on pavement for my long runs or when recovering from injury.

I am also left to wonder why, in a city that has made such a push for environmental responsibility, anyone would agree that such unnecessary paving of a current TRAIL makes any sense? The concrete bike PATH along Hwy 36, the many miles of concrete sidewalks, and all of the bike lanes incorporated into the major streets of Louisville are not enough? Does the City suddenly have money to burn, and replacing some of a much-loved multi-use crushed gravel trail with CONCRETE sounds like a fabulous project to throw hundreds of thousands of dollars at?

I certainly hope this is not the case.

Please reconsider this tremendously irresponsible decision to change this section of the Coal Creek Trail, a soft-surface treasure amidst a plethora of suburban concrete and asphalt.

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From: [Caroline Locke](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please Don't Pave! Keep Coal Creek Wild ☺
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 8:18:38 PM

Hello Wonderful Louisville City Counsel!

I am a frequent commuter and recreate-r on the beautiful Coal Creek Path that winds so gracefully through our beloved city. I heard there are plans to pave a portion of it. I implore you to reconsider. A gravel path offers something a concrete one never could: the audible release and crunch of real land under your feet. It seems small- why would that matter?! But it's huge. It tells our overloaded and overworked brains we are in nature now. It says we are at peace, it gives us gentle feedback to our ears with each step. It feels like progress to pave it, but this path needs no improvement. It is one of my favorite parts of living in this special place. I ride my bike on it to work, smiling at the other commuters. The gravel keeps bikes at a softer speed to handle the turns carefully. In the off chance we bump into one another and fall, the gravel would not hurt us as concrete would. The soft sound rocks my baby to sleep on our stroller walks. The softness of the gravel path is easy on the knees, especially for our running groups. A construction project to pave this path would be destructive to the natural landscape bordering it. The little carve out of natural land surrounding it has been whittled down over the years by our human development. Please, with all due respect, please keep that path wild.

Thank you greatly,
Caroline Locke

--

Caroline E. Locke

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From: [Sara Cohen](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please don't pave coal Creek Trail
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 4:45:43 PM

Your council: Many users, including gravel cyclists, runners, and walkers much prefer gravel. Please leave it as it is; spend your money elsewhere. Thanks for considering, Sara Cohen.

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Lindsey LeCuyer](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Caleb Dickinson](#); [Christopher Leh](#); [Dennis Maloney](#)
Subject: Opposition to paving the Coal Creek Trail
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 9:52:24 AM

Mayor Maloney, Councilmember Dickinson, and Councilmember Leh -

I am a Louisville Ward I resident who loves running and bicycling on the Coal Creek Trail. I am opposed to the recently-proposed plan to pave the trail from Dillon Road to US 36, for the following reasons:

- This section did flood in recent memory, but I have only witnessed that during the historic 100-year (500-year?) flood of 2013. Surely we're not going to pave based solely on that risk?
- I could get into more detail, but we're all informed folks who know that concrete is less environmentally friendly than crushed gravel, and does not align with Louisville sustainability goals.
- Crushed gravel trails are appreciated by a wide variety of users. If the reason for paving is to appeal to bicycle commuters, then one could argue for paving the entire trail. That would be a devastating outcome for all other users and the surrounding natural environment.
- The current trend in bicycling is toward gravel bikes, with cyclists looking for dirt roads and gravel paths to ride on.
- On an icy morning such as this one, I'm watching neighbors walk on the grass instead of the sidewalk. I'm reminded of the value of a soft surface as a safer alternative to ice-rink concrete for dog walkers, runners, and those hearty folks who commute by bike in any kind of weather!

I am unable to attend the meeting tonight, but want my voice on record in opposition of this proposal.

Thank you for your time,
Lindsey LeCuyer

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From: [Tracy Scholl](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Maxine Most](#)
Subject: Oppose paving section of the Coal Creek Trail
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 9:01:36 AM

Hello,

I am writing to express my opposition to a proposal to concrete over the section of Coal Creek Trail between Dillon Road and the US 36 bikeway. There are several other paved options already available for commuters to access the 36 bikeway if they do not want to use the gravel trail.

My primary reason for our opposition is because the majority of runners, bikers, walkers and other recreational users of the Coal Creek Trail greatly enjoy the softer gravel surface along a scenic and nature-integrated corridor.

While certain sections of the Coal Creek Trail often succumb to yearly washout or light flooding, this particular section from Dillon to 36 does not and was only affected by major flooding during the 2013 one thousand year flood event.

Also, the financial burden is unnecessary.

Thank you for your time.

Tracy Scholl

20+ yr Louisville resident.

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From: [Debra Summers](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Proposed paving of Coal Creek Trail
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:37:00 AM

Good morning,

Recently I learned that the paving of the Coal Creek Trail between Dillon Road and the US 36 Bikeway was proposed. I strongly object to this and ask the Louisville City Council *not* to pave this section of the trail.

As an older runner, I very much appreciate the soft surface of an unpaved trail, as well as the natural beauty. The Open Spaces and miles of trails are some of the best and most appreciated features of our community. The following are some reasons not to add more concrete to our trails.

1. The paving of the Coal Creek Trail removes a valuable piece of a soft surface trail that is loved by runners, gravel bikers, and others who prefer the more natural experience to that of concrete.
2. The Coal Creek Trail is a regional trail that stretches from Superior to Erie. Although parts of it that are more prone to flooding have been paved by Louisville and other municipalities over the years, it is still primarily a soft surface trail whose user experience would be reduced by more concrete.
3. Generally the paving of trails in the city has been focused on those that are located in neighborhoods or which are prone to flooding during typical rain storms or high waterway levels. Neither is this case with this stretch of the Coal Creek Trail which, to my knowledge, is only flooded during catastrophic events like the 2013 flood.
4. From an ecological and sustainability point of view, there is a net carbon impact associated with the mixing and laying of concrete that is not there with the current gravel trail. With the city's push for sustainability, it seems that paving this stretch of trail (and also introducing another hardscape that reduces water absorption by the ground) is not practicing what the city preaches.
5. The cost of this trail (\$600,000 or more) is not advisable in this day and time where the city is having to make hard financial decisions related to COVID impacts and the loss of sales tax revenue from the loss of businesses.
6. The placement of this concrete replacement project into a consent agenda and "ad-alt" item hinders the visibility of the topic and makes it harder to have an open discussion on something that impacts so many citizens.
7. The paving of this part of the Coal Creek Trail was not spelled out in any planning documents such as the transportation master plan. Changing the approach thereby circumvents the standard public input process.
8. Connectivity from a transportation point of view does not necessitate hard surfaces. If hard surfaces are desired, the slower speeds and improved bike lanes on Cherry and Bella Vista that were provided for several years ago help provide a link between 36 and Old Town Louisville. There are also other great corridors such as the Powerline Trail and Pine St. that provide an effective way to get to Old Town.
9. And, finally, this paving project is opposed unanimously by the Louisville Open Space Advisory Board per discussion and a memo to city council from October 2022. OSAB should be one of the primary sources of input in assessing importance for new trails and changes to existing trails.

Thank you for your time, consideration and service to Louisville.

Debra Summers
368 Owl Drive
Louisville

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From: [Tammy](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Regarding paving of Coal Creek Trail
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:20:45 AM

Hello,

I recently became aware of the proposal to pave the Coal Creek Trail from Dillon Rd to Hwy 36. I'm not sure why I need to hear about this via a Facebook Louisville residents page rather than on your agenda - this should be a transparent discussion that involves the very residents who use this publicly funded open space trail. Transparency in government is key - especially for issues important to the community!

I reach out to you as a resident who uses the trail multiple times a week to NOT pave it! Keep it as it is!

- Being on the trail brings a sense of being 'out there' - away from the hustle and bustle. Concrete won't feel that way.
- Concrete introduces yet another hardscape at both a monetary and environmental cost.
 - A concrete trail will need to be plowed during winter and kept as ice-free as possible. Has this been budgeted for?
- If this is proposed due to people who would like a faster bike commute (as was noted in what I'd read), there are paved roads all along/nearby the Coal Creek Trail - use those instead!
 - Faster bikers come at a cost to walkers, runners, and those with dogs! I'm sure all of us at one time or another have had someone approach quickly from behind without saying a word - startling us/our pets. This can result in injury.

Changing this trail to concrete will reduce its enjoyment - and use - by walkers and runners. Please listen to residents as well as the Louisville Open Space Advisory Board and DO NOT PAVE the Coal Creek Trail!

Tammy Fredrickson
834 Lincoln Ave

A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men.
Willy Wonka

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From: [Sarah Fish](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please do not pave the Coal Creek Trail between Dillon Rd & Hwy-36
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 11:24:41 AM

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing regarding one item in the Consent Agenda for the March 7th meeting: the "Award 2023 Concrete Replacement Project" which would pave a significant portion of the Coal Creek Trail between US-36 and Dillon Road.

I ask you to please remove this line item from the project proposal for the following reasons:

- This segment of trail is a precious gem in a sea of concrete jungle regularly used and enjoyed by thousands of Louisville, Superior and Lafayette residents. I've lived in Louisville since the early 2000s and this segment is a favorite part of my weekly running route - a quiet space surrounded by nature under a canopy of trees. Paving it would change it for the worse.
- In the 20+ years that I've lived in Louisville, flooding has never been a recurring issue in this segment of the Coal Creek Trail.
- Cyclists (myself included) have several easy ways to bypass unpaved sections of the trail. In fact, Louisville already has a great network of paved bike paths and has spent a lot of effort and money to create bike lanes throughout the city. Paving this section of the trail is unnecessary.
- Residents should be given the opportunity to provide input to paving sections of the Coal Creek Trail. Including a line item like this hidden within a concrete project plan proposal goes against the transparency and open government the City strives for.
- The money required for this project could be spent on more important projects within the city and maintaining its surrounding open spaces.

Please, take a moment at the March 7th meeting to remove this item in the consent agenda and leave this beautiful section of trail untouched.

Regards,
Sarah Fish
535 W Hackberry St.
Louisville, CO 80027

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From: [Kevin Purdy](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: BHalington@louisvilleco.gov; [Dietrich Hoefner](#)
Subject: Concert Trail in Louisville
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 10:25:10 AM

Dear Council Members,

I am pleased to discover that you are considering a concrete trail surface for portions of Coal Creek Trail. I think this is a good idea and will definitely improve the trail experience for nearly all trail users and especially for commuters and people with disabilities. It will also allow the trail to be used year-round by all citizens of Louisville and our visitors. In addition, trail maintenance will become much less of an issue with a concrete trail as opposed to the current gravel surface. I am a daily user of Coal Creek Trail, and I see how inadequate it is after rain and snow storms. A concrete surface will make the trail much more accessible to all of us.

I have noted that some people (mostly trail runners) are opposed to a concrete trail. As a long-time trail runner (and walker and bicyclist and dog walker), I feel that such opposition is extremely selfish. First of all, there are many options throughout Louisville, Boulder County and beyond for those who desire soft-surface trails. Also, running on concrete for a portion of a person's trail experience isn't the end of the world. Finally, on some portions of the trail, it may be an option to provide a narrow soft-surface alternative for runners. That is quite common on many concrete trails that I have explored throughout the country.

After reading about the opposition to Louisville's potential concrete trail surfacing, I dashed off a post on [Trailsnet.com](https://trailsnet.com) to highlight some of the [benefits of concrete trails](#). It is not one of my better posts, since I hurriedly wrote it in hopes that you could view it before making any final decisions. As somebody who loves trails of all kinds and who has travelled all over the world exploring trails, I am an advocate for getting people of all ages and abilities outside, off the roads and into nature. We have plenty of great venues for those of us who enjoy mountain biking, backpacking and trail running. We also need to provide opportunities for commuters, people of differing abilities and people of all ages to enjoy trails and outdoor pursuits.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Kevin Purdy
Resident of Louisville (Ward III)
kevin@trailsnet.com
Founding Board Member for Great Plains Trail Alliance (based right here in Louisville)

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From: [Elizabeth](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Opposition to consent agenda item re paving Coal Creek Trail stretch between Hwy 36 and Dillon Road
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 1:42:06 PM

Dear City Council,

I would like to express my opposition to the consent agenda item to approve paving the Coal Creek Trail stretch between Highway 36 and Dillon Road. My concern is actually more about good governance than about the specific project. First, consent agendas should never be used for controversial items, and it is clear from social media and conversations with neighbors that this project is controversial. Second, I understand that the Open Space Advisory Board unanimously opposes the project and communicated this opposition to Council. It is insulting to the community volunteers who dedicate their time to serving on the Board for the Council to reject their unanimous recommendation without at least having Council members discuss the proposal in open meeting.

I hope Council will remove the item from the consent agenda and examine this project more carefully before voting on it. I would also suggest exploring the possibility of maintaining a gravel trail alongside a paved one if Council continues to believe paving is necessary. Those who need and/or prefer a softer surface than concrete for recreation and exercise (including me) would be grateful!

Thank you for your consideration,
Elizabeth Henna

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From: [Donna Pendleton](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Paving section of Coal Creek trail
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 2:30:29 PM

I am adamantly opposed to the proposed concreting of the Coal Creek trail between Dillon and the Hwy 36 Bikeway. Is the massive bike path from Boulder to Denver, in addition to all the asphalted roadways (many with bike lanes) not enough? Soft paths for walkers, hikers, runners, and dogs are getting scarce in the Louisville/Superior area and accommodating these citizens is just as important as meeting every demand of area bikers. And is this seriously the best use of government money right now as we try to recover from the Marshall Fire and a harsh winter that took a toll on many area roads in need of repair? Honestly, this is a really bad use of resources and a dumb idea.

Donna Pendleton

Sent from my iPad

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