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Comments: Stop unnecessarily paving our wild lands.

Sure, there is money being thrown around by Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative, why not grab it? Free money, but at what cost?

Prescribed burns. Great. River improvements. Also great.

Paving the Colorado Trail. Really? This is Durango, right? And you are suggesting to pave the CT? Smells a whole lot like visiting city dwellers with money are making this request. You're talking about wild-Durango paving the CT?

I get it. It's for accessibility for those less fortunate. I'm all for that. Anyone who isn't is a terrible human. But why the CT? Have you reached out to the handicap community? Is this something that they want? In this particular location? The views really aren't that great.

Have you considered other options? What about, not on the CT? What about building an adjacent trail across the stream from the main parking lot that is a paved nature trail? What about pursuing more comprehensive solutions for these people?

Why take the lazy "let's pave the CT" approach instead of "let's give handicap access via modern equipment to these x=20 trails throughout Durango". Ebikes, all terrain wheelchairs, and adaptive mountain bikes are all solutions that would help some people access more scenic nature trails than the dog shit covered first 1.12 miles of the Southern CT terminus.

You could easily find 20 trails throughout our area that are wide enough and smooth enough for any of this equipment. You could even rate them green through black. We need to adapt to nature. Stop trying to mold nature to be convenient for us.

There are paved paths in town. There is a great paved path at Animas Overlook (more on that below). If we absolutely need a paved path in the CT location, build another trail and pave it. Pave it twice if it gets you more money. Try harder. Do better. Are you trying to build Austin 2.0? Why do we need to pave everything? How are all of these out-of-staters going to use those big Jeeps and SUVs if we keep paving all of the roads?

Oh, you still have a lot of money left over? I see. And you want to pave the entire road up to Animas Overlook? Neat.

This one I'm more middle of the road on. I'll say I think it's a bad idea. I'll also say, that road is a mess. It is a mess mostly because of the disastrous, self-important idiots driving dual axle pickup trucks pulling literal houses up the road. Can we limit that, well not if we keep spending a ton of money inviting these people to our (soon to be paved) town.

I digress.

If you pave this road, you will encourage a lot more traffic. You will encourage speeding. You will jeopardize the bike riders that ride up this hill. You will encourage littering. You will have road kill. You will probably see an increase in people driving off the edge of the road. Are you going to maintain this road in the winter?

If you pave this road, you will remove the joy of this dirt road from many of your locals. The pickup trucks full of smiling faces shuttling the log chutes trail. The people driving up to Animas Overlook. The runners. The bikers doing an out-and-back.

Is money being budgeted to hire resources to maintain and/or enforce rules in this area? Who is going to clean up the trash? You need to add trash cans on your paved river walk. If you pave it, they will come. They will bring their YouTube. They will bring their dogs. Off leash dog complaints will increase. Dog shit will increase. Trash will increase.

You are adding more parking. You are adding another bathroom. Who is going to clean this... on the regular?

It's fun to think about how good Durango is at solving this offensive dirt surface problem. Yet, we couldn't figure out where to place the homeless camp. "Hurr durr, but the money is from somewhere else."

Lastly, what are your plans for the trails? The various "log chutes" trails? The West View loop, etc?

If your aim is to modify any of those trails, I strongly oppose. Do not close trails. Do not widen or smooth trails. Do not resurface trails. These trails are rugged. Do not touch them. The only reason you should be stepping foot on these trails with your pavement stained sneakers is to place new signs to warn all of the new visitors you are encouraging of the trails difficulty. Log Chutes DH is a hard trail. Make sure everyone knows that. We don't want a City eBike accidentally going down that trail.

I would encourage the addition of trails. There is definitely room up there. You could easily give some of your pavement money to Durango Trails to build some new green, blue, and black trails. And while we're on the topic, it's 2022... allow class 1 ebikes on all of these trails. The research is there. This topic has been debated and the answers are clear. It's a new modality that doesn't harm the environment. We are adapting to nature. It's not like we are asking for the trails to be paved.

Someone will always argue "precedent". Rather, "what precedent are we setting"? What's your next target? Pave all of La Plata Canyon so people can zip up to Kennebec without spilling a drop of their coffee? What about all of Hermosa? Let's pave to Celebration Lake. Let's pave to Rico.