

Letter To The Editor

Re: "Labonte's Lair: Unsustainable destruction", Beryl Wajzman, The Suburban, Pp.3 & 16:

According to The Suburban editor Beryl Wajzman, Dr. Wendell Cox is "...arguably one of North America's leading experts in urban transport policy". Dr. Cox never saw a highway or road he didn't like.

If it were up to him, every rail line would be lifted and every blade of grass paved over.

Belief is in the eye of the beholder. If environmentalists are theocrats, what are people who deny anything else but the motor vehicle and the sound of the chain saw? Bikes are not destroying the natural environment or downtown businesses. In fact many cities like New York have bicycle paths in their central core and commerce is not impeded.

It is the current fly-drive transportation model that is not sustainable. It encourages sprawl, drinks up the last drops of oil and produces inordinate amounts of pollution. Like it or not, the world will soon hit peak-oil and it will become harder and harder to sustain a carbon based economy. We as a society must create new transportation alternatives, wean ourselves off the internal combustion engine and offer new viable and environmentally friendly energy sources.

Utilitarian bicycle paths and improved urban rail transit is the way to go. Bikes have the same right or privilege on the road as do cars. In fact, early 20th Century activism by wheelmen, (bicyclists), and farmers got the roads paved in the first place.

True Montreal does have a winter, but one can easily ride a bike seven months out of twelve.

Also, London, England and New York City are perfect examples where over 50% of the traveling public use mass transit.

Unfortunately, Dr. Wendell Cox labels those cities as pre-automotive dinosaurs not worthy of his praise.

Yours Sincerely,

Avrom David Shtern,
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