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Bike path, worth outweighs cost

Readers

The Desert Sun

While posed as a question, "Bike path too pricey?" the implication in your article about the Cross Valley Bike Path seems to be that it is too pricey. The article cites an estimate of \$1 million per mile, as if that places the project's future into jeopardy.

Let's look at this cost from a little different perspective. Even at \$1 million per mile, the total cost of a 100-mile path would be equivalent to the cost of about two miles of four-lane highway, and the cost benefits would far outweigh the cost. Some of those benefits include increased property values, less congested roadways, a positive impact on the environment, a significant additional tourism draw, significant enhancement of recreation and fitness opportunities, etc.

When a few miles of highway or a new highway interchange is needed, the cost never seems to be presented as an insurmountable obstacle, yet when a comparative pittance for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is encountered it is deemed "too pricey." Whether or not to build the path should not even be an issue. It is time to re-evaluate our priorities.

George H. Stock
Bermuda Dunes
