LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bike path on Klingle wouldn't be suitable

The Sierra Club is spinning its wheels calling for a bicycle trail along Klingle Road. Certainly we should build more bicycle trails in Rock Creek Park, but Klingle Road is probably the last place we should start.

Biking up Klingle Road would be difficult for most of us, to say the least. Steep grades on Klingle Road exceed 8 percent. Five percent is the recommended maximum grade, and only for limited distances. Unless you are Lance Armstrong, you wouldn't cycle much up a Klingle Road bike trail.

Coming down Klingle Road, safety and speed are major con- [redacted] share trails with the speedier bikes, making trail geometry critical to safety. Building a suitable bicycle trail involves a lot more planning than meets the eye.

Most stream valleys in Rock Creek Park feature dedicated hiking trails away from the valley parkways. This would make sense for Klingle, too, where parts of a Klingle Valley hiking trail might best be sited across the stream from, not next to, Klingle Road.

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