

Synopsis of Friends of Bonita Estero Rail trail Comments:

- Like to ride distances safely.
- Have these in other areas, need it here.
- Safe place to ride, SWFL is dangerous for cyclists.
- Safe way to bike to Coconut Point from Bonita.
- Add value to property, appeal to potential property buyers and increase revenue for businesses.
- Big supporter of turning unused railroad that blights the neighborhood into a bike path.
- Nice to have trail close to home instead of driving to one.
- Health benefits and spend time outdoors.
- Safe place versus going up and down US 41.
- Great addition to our community, community resource.
- Run errands using it, bike to lunch, looking for a safe way to go.
- Gives child safe place to ride.
- Love idea of replacing commuting by car with biking.
- Reduce traffic, use for alternative transportation.
- Great idea to increase green space to walk and bike. Great for family.
- Outdoor space dedicated to use for people is amazing.
- The trail is necessary so that walkers, runners, and bicyclists have a safe place to exercise.
- I would love a bike trail near my house.
- For many years I have thought the old railline has potential for being turned into something of community value, as proposed by BERT.
- I live in a city with over 30 miles of transformed rails to hiking, biking, runners, strollers, wheelchairs out for quality activity. It would definitely improve our area and appeal
- We need to make Naples, Bonita, Estero and Fort Myers more bike friendly.
- Safety. Good for community health, economic benefits.
- Great to have a bike riding path without cars.
- Lost our Home 4 years ago & four dogs to a house fire. Our furries loved the outdoors as much as we did. September 27, 2022 was a Year my husband of 27 Years & then the Hurricane hit ! Catastrophic understanding the pain more than you'll ever know but seeing the beauty of nature being destroyed by more apartments and hotels and roads is heart wrenching as well we must preserve these natural trails and beauty without seeing high-rises take over let her children and grandchildren get out and enjoy nature like we did as kids without cell phones Bieber's laptops listen to our own thoughts in our heads for a while I don't listen at all the woman your face as you walk to the trails and hear the birds chirping I see a turtle crossing a path that's a true beauty of BERT.
- We need a space off road to walk and cycle to stay healthy in our local community, especially when it connects to local parks and businesses.
- Recreational trails promote physical fitness both in walking and biking.
- We are badly in need of more walking, running, cycling facilities in our neighbourhood. This is a great use of the unused railroad track.
- Write your comments here. I'm a biker and fearful of riding along Three Oaks/Imperial because of the traffic. At the 45 mph speed limit, it just takes one distracted driver to cause an accident and seriously injure or likely kill a biker .

- I am an avid cyclist. I support safe family cycling. No better way than on a rail trail.
- So we can walk, bike or run without worrying about cars running over us. This trail is desperately needed in our area. Thank you for initiating this project.
- Safe places to bike and walk promote healthy activities for our citizens. Traffic will not decrease and safety is the key word!
- Support off road trail development due to hazards of cycling on Tamiami and other busy roads. Like interesting trails other Florida communities have like Venice .
- Avid bike rider ... but riding on Ben Hill is not fun. Dedicated trails would be awesome.
- Bonita Springs needs a safe place for walking and bike riding .
- Beneficial For the well being of the community and the people.
- We need to make it easy to walk, bike, run in our communities for future generations .
- I also live in Denver 2 houses away from Cherry Creek trail.
- Denver has an amazing network of traffic free bike/ walk/ run paths and it contributes greatly to livability and healthy.
- For safety and the love of being outside in our community, I support the effort to develop a trail.
- I have biked on the Pinellas trail and Venice trail. It is so nice to have a safe place for people that love to bike. I also am part of Critical Mass.
- I am an avid Bicycle Rider, but am in fear of local traffic on the local roads and bike lanes. I have ridden on many bicycle trails and rail trails throughout the US and Internationally. I believe that use of this right of way would be of great benefit to our communities .
- I am a resident of Bonita Bay in Bonita Springs, am an avid bike rider who rides on Lee County roads, and am in full support of the Bonita Estero Rail Trail. This trail would be a much safer alternative route to public roads.
- We are very much interested in a paved bike path away from traffic. Here in SWFL, which has perfect cycling weather and congested roads, it just seems like a no brainer! We are spoiled in Minnesota where there is an abundance of trails.
- As an avid bike rider I absolutely support Bert for Bonita Springs, Estero and Lee County. There are thousands of bike riders in our area and very few safe non-automobile bike paths. We have one of the highest rates of fatalities for bike riders in the entire country. We absolutely need something like Bert and even more to provide safety for our local riders. Please support all efforts to have safe bike riding. Thank you.
- BERT would be hugely beneficial to help promote healthy options of things to do! Safe options for people to walk and ride their bikes instead of on the dangerous busy roads (like 3 oaks, Estero parkway, 41, corkscrew, etc).
- SAFETY! As the Estero/ Bonita Springs area
- continues to grow, it's getting more dangerous to ride on the roads.
- I ride the local roads several times a week, both alone and in a group. It would be MUCH safer to bike a local rail trail and stay off the roads .
- It would be nice to have a safe place to ride my bike w/o having to worry about lots of traffic .
- Safe space for bikers ,walkers and/or runners will be greatly appreciated.
- It would be good for the area.
- The cause would benefit the community in safety and recreation services.
- We need a trail where cyclists can ride safely.

- Our names are Chantal and Garret. We are in the process of purchasing a home in the beautiful area of Bonita Springs. We are currently expecting our first child and fully support the Bonita Estero Rail Trail. We think this is a wonderful addition to the community that will provide a safe space for our child and family to enjoy the outdoors and promote a healthy lifestyle.
- My husband Ken and I are frequent bike riders and avid walkers. Having a trail like this is important to us. We often bike to lunch and we believe safe access to a variety of restaurants and other businesses via bike and walkways is important for our community's future.
- For the efforts of so many. Looking forward to a safe and enjoyable way to bike outside of bonita bay for fun or errands.
- The rail trail would be so good for our area. I love to walk/run/cycle and having a safe place, free of traffic would be awesome
- I lived in RI when an old railway was converted to a path. It was extensively used and was beneficial to all the communities it ran through.
- As a new member of the community, relocating from a state where bike paths are an integral part of the community, I am wholeheartedly a supporter of this!
- We are new to the Estero area and live in Belle Lago. Our community is close to where the trail crosses Estero parkway and the vines property. We think the trail will be a wonderful addition to the community and would love to know how we can help.
- he trail would so convenient for us, because we live in the Shadowwood community. The roads around us are far to congested and unsafe for recreational cycling, therefore we rarely ride outside of our community.
- We appreciate and thank you for your efforts to created a recreational path that can only enhance our quality of life in Southwest Florida!
- There was a similar trail in Minnesota which I biked often with my wife. It brought us so much joy! I think this rail trail will be an amazing addition to our community and well worth the cost.
- My husband and I are residents of the Cascades and very excited to have this trail near us. We enjoy cycling and look forward to this safer alternative. Thanks for your hard work organizing this!
- As a bike rider it would be a much added addition to all the wonderful trails in FL to have this new trail become a reality as soon as possible.
- We live in Bonita Springs half the year and are big fans of riding our bikes on rail trails in our northern home. We would love to see it here.
- I live nearby the rail and would love to bike in a safe environment.
- I love the idea of replacing the commuting by car with biking. Its better for my body and the environment. I prefer to bike outside in nature.
- I live in Spanish Wells and our home faces the trail. We would like to help support the conversion of the rail line into a hiking/biking greenway and to be kept informed of the developments of BERT.
- Live part time in WI on a trail that we use all the time. Would love to see that here.
- I live seasonally in San Carlos and adjacent to the proposed trail and would welcome this wonderful addition to our community.
- I am a long time biker and realize the realize the dangers of trying to share roads with traffic. I really enjoyed riding the Capital trail in Virginia.

- One of the simple things to reduce traffic is build safe zones for alternative transportation. I believe allowing low powered vehicles Mopeds, Golf Carts, Mini Bikes etc on the trail would entice many to support the trail.
- I'm an avid biker and there aren't many great places to ride around here away from busy roads. Have enjoyed a number of rail trails around the country and would love to see one in the neighborhood.
- Safe place to ride, SWFL is dangerous to cyclists!!
- .. I love biking
- To make use of current non used railway ROW for a safe walking/biking trail
- We love to ride our bikes places where there is no traffic .
- Trails all over the place that my wife and I use extensively during our time in the western suburbs of Minneapolis. We would love to experience similar opportunities to cycle here in Southwest Florida. As a member of the Bonita Bay Bicycle Club I think the Bonita Estero Rail Trail {BERT) would enjoy wide use by our club membership, many of whom do not feel comfortable riding on the roads around our community. The Terry Street Improvement Project with the multi-use pathway on the north side of West Terry will provide great access to BERT from Bonita Bay .
- I am familiar with with converted rail trails in other communities up north. They are wonderful recreational additions to the community .
- Great use of space Love that it will be affordable.
- It's a wonderful utilization of an unused asset. I support the version that keeps the rail line and has a bike/ walking path running alongside it. I would love to see the rail line reactivated for recreational and commuter use. With our growing population that could be a reality sometime in the future .
- I often feel unsafe riding my bike in the cape. It would be great to have this proposed trail t For everyone to enjoy .
- Our family would very much like the rail to trail to be installed.
- Wonderful idea to promote exercise and well being with family and friends. MOVE IT OR LOOSE IT. There are many rails becoming trails throughout the country and Canada. Greet dea!
- It is a great use of the land!
- It would be great for the community. Other cities and towns have enjoy trails like this all over the country.
- My husband and I ride all over the place. We appreciate safe biking paths .
- I would love to have a bicycle trail to ride on, we usually ride on the sidewalks, as the streets aren't safe for bikes!
- Would be great to have safe trails for walking and biking.
- Love the idea of having a walking, running, bike trail close to home.
- I would love to have this rail trail!! ®
- A much safer bike route for avid bikers. Much needed in our community.
- Love the rail trail nature bike rides!.
- Love to see this happen for all bikers walkers runners-what a wonderful project -let's get this going now!!.
- Lost Woods . We need to walk & move more.

- Safe access to exercise area. Excellent use of odd/unused property .
- Bonita springs has already made a commitment to pedestrian and bicyclist safety by expanding west Terry. This would tie the two together perfectly and open up safer travel ways for many local and seasonal residents .
- We are avid cyclists, and have a Towpath to ride on at home in Ohio.
- We need to get cyclists and walkers off the streets and on a trail that it's not being used anymore. We are so thrilled. This is being done!.
- I love to ride a bike in a safe place. Also love to walk trails. We will return to Estero when our flooded condo is back to livability. Thank you for doing this.
- I ride my bike frequently.
- I bought land in Bonita Springs where the back of the lot is at the foot of the rail track so I have a direct interest in what might happen with the rail track. I bought that land because of the potential of this project happening in the future .
- I would like to have a safe environment to ride my bike, and exercise.
- Bike riders need safe options for biking. Also, to cut down on the use of cars, we need to be able to use bike trails to get to places as an alternative to driving .
- I was surprised when we moved here Florida did not have bike trails like our northern states- which have been in place for nay years. Bike trails are critical for safety and they grow the economy.
- I would love a long safe trail to ride my bike to keep fit and active.
- We need a safe place to bike, run and walk .
- It will be a great asset to the communities throughout southwest Florida. Trail has the potential to have a positive for the economy along the train and at the same time support the health and wellness of the community members. I am in full support of the project.
- Rail trails are an outstanding way to reuse abandoned rail lines. I ride on rail trails as much as possible whenever I have the chance to be in an area where they have been developed. They provide safe ways for cyclists of all ages to enjoy biking and being outdoors. I always link a trip to a rail trail with some kind of visit to a restaurant and/or another local attraction such as a museum. I have personally seen the economic development benefit of establishing rail trails in various communities I have visited .
- I just heard about BERT from a friend this morning and would like to join the group! We own a home in Copperleaf and are avid cyclists. It would be awesome to have a trail locally, especially given all the high traffic in the area. We have experience in riding the Wabash and Racoon River trails back in Iowa. Unfortunately we will be back north for upcoming meetings but if there is any other means of supporting this measure that we can help with please let us know.
- Definitely add my name to the list of citizens concerned and requesting safer bike trails in Lee County! I'm a member of Bike MN and have enjoyed the endless biking opportunities in the Minneapolis Metro area and rural areas of Minnesota. With a state as beautiful as Florida and the opportunity for year round cycling, why aren't there more trails to safely enjoy? I'm looking forward to hearing about ways to convince our politicians to approve funding for the public pathways.
- This is a great idea! A few years ago I road the entire 240 miles of the Katy trail in Missouri. It was being well used by families, sportsman, and adventure seekers. The Katy trail is an excellent example of just how a trail like this can become an important part of the surrounding

communities. It was such a pleasure to ride through the beautiful scenery and meet so many people without worrying about the dangers of riding on the road. Hopefully enough people see the benefit of this project and it come to fruition.

- My wife and I would very much like to see the rail trail come to fruition. We would make use of it. Where we previously lived there were old trolley beds converted to such trails and they were a great location to enjoy biking without having to be concerned about distracted motorists that are so prevalent on our roadways.
- My wife and I have enjoyed cycling on dedicated bike paths wherever we have lived, from our native Chicago area, to stops in Atlanta and Connecticut. All three places had extensive rails-to-trails paths, including a path in Atlanta that eventually extended more than 100 miles into Alabama. What a great way to ride! Especially as the greater SWFL area has become more populated with more traffic, this kind of facility gives a huge boost to those of us wanting to cycle in a safe setting. I am a big supporter of turning the unused railroad right-of-way that blights our neighborhoods into a bike path. I am sending this to add my voice. It would be wonderful if the municipalities involved could find a way to get this done.
- It is much needed and would be a wonderful addition to our area. We have walked and biked on other such trails in NY and MA. They are wonderful.
- Yes, my vote to establish this trail is needed. Not only for the beautification of this dilapidated railroad but will be a safe private trail for all to enjoy I say yes for the trail from Alica to BBR.
- My wife and I would definitely use the trails. There is so little safe biking routes.
- I DO support the Rail Trail.
- I think it would be a GREAT addition to the community.
- We are all for this endeavor ! ! It will be great to have a long safe trail to walk or bike on.
- Please keep me informed on the new trail. I hope this materializes and we all can enjoy. What an asset to sW Florida if it does!
- I live adjacent to and cycle on the W&OD regional park trail in northern Virginia that is a major economic and recreational benefit to the entire region. I would love something similar in Southwest Florida when I stay at my residence in Bonita Springs. Cycling is too dangerous down there.
- Please add me to your list and I fully support this venture. Full time resident, career professional and local Capt. I Absolutely enjoy riding 41 & Old 41 from Coconut Mall to Bonita beach road. Along with visiting local shops, breweries and food joints to support our local propirators / neighbors. This will expand my rides and bring others along the way.
- Please add me to the list to attend upcoming meetings. This trail will change the area for the better in so many ways.
- We heartily support this. We saw some built in upstate NY and they have been great for exercising , socializing and less eating!
- I have just hear of this possible multi use trail that is being considered. What an awesome idea! It will assist so many people who want to walk or bike safety for exercise and even more importantly as a safe place to bike if no other transportation is available or affordable. I am sure this trail would be used extensively. Please go ahead with this proposal.
- I support the trail along the 14-miles of Seminole Gulf Coast railway! Residents deserve a safe, dedicated trail to exercise on, AWAY from traffic.

- Lee County is in dire need of walking and bike trails for the safety of their residents that enjoy walking and biking! Would love to see this trail constructed soon.
- I am very interested in seeing this plan through. It would be a big step in supplying this area with something it needs.
- I live in Estero and like to ride my bike every weekend. To have this bike friendly trail nearby is a great idea, so I would like to have updates on the progress of this project and would like to participate in every possible way to make this happen as soon as possible.
- I want to join. I would love to see them replace that train track with a path. Gets these bikers off the road and remove abandoned junk.
- I am interested in the bike trail. Moving from up north we had so many bike and hike trails and miss them!!! We love riding but come across many rude drivers that don't like us.
- I am interested in supporting the trail. I live in Corkscrew Shores - and someday I'm sure this construction will end, so I would look forward to riding that trail.
- We are from the northeast MD and PA where we enjoyed years of Rails to Trails and then moved to Fort Myers Florida expecting the same, Boy, were we disappointed. No such thing. Every week, we read of someone killed on their bicycle. The few places we find are small. Most are not shaded and are very hot. Please, please bring a rail trail to Florida, they are wonderful for bikers, walkers, baby carriages etc. all times of the year - soon we will age out of biking - hopefully, the trail will come before that happens!
- I'm all for the safest bike and walk trail system from Estero through Bonita Springs. Please let me know how I can vote and stay informed.
- I am a long time member of Rails To Trails Conservancy and I heartily approve of your efforts to convert the Seminole inactive right-of-way into a bike/jogging/walking path. I bike about 45 miles nearly every day and would make great use of this proposed trail.
- I'm so glad to know this could happen for Lee County. It's desperately needed!
- I am a huge fan of rail trails and supportive of BERT!
- As an avid cyclist I enthusiastically support the rail trail.
- This would be an awesome addition to the area. Are there any fundraisers planned for this endeavor?
- Thank you. A great cause. BERT would be wonderful and so much safer.
- Please add me to your email list/distribution. I'd love to see a rails to trails in our area. We have them in Michigan and love and use them often.
- I strongly support this trail to be converted to a bike and walking trail. I have been here for 17 yrs and the development of the area did not take into account the safety of the walkers and bikers in this area. Please support this project as it will benefit all in this area. To stop this because of the needs of one community is not in the good interest of all who live there.
- I live in Bonita. The community could use a nice bike trail.
- Changing railways into useable riding/ walking paths are most important to have a safe place to exercise.
- Important for families and allows us to have something special to connect community.
- We enjoy rail trails in Lee County and want more of them off the main roads.
- Riding up and down old 41 is a nightmare. Not enough room for people, bikes and cars, this is a great option.

- Safe place to walk and ride bikes.
- The health and wellness of individuals is greatly effected by them moving their bodies. The development of this trail would provide a space for the community to do just that.
- I am an active retiree who enjoys being outside ~safely walking and riding my bicycle.
- I want to bicycle here more, but the roads are so dangerous. This trail would go right by my neighborhood, which would make me so happy!
- I live in Bonita. The community could use a nice bike trail.
- Please add us any correspondence regarding the bike trail from Alica to Bonita Beach. We think that is a great use of space and a wonderful addition. We would like to support how we can. We have personally used the Pinellas bike trail up in Clearwater and Dunedin several times.
- Because we need more trails in the area!!.
- I prefer to ride my bicycle everywhere.
- Love the idea of a safe walking/biking linear park.
- We used to live in Durham NC, which has a wonderful rails to trails bike and pedestrian trail, the American Tobacco Trail. We have also spent some time in Bushnell FL and really enjoyed the Withlacoochee Trail.
- It just makes sense railroad tracks are dead Bikes jogging walking Safer than on the roads too We need this. I love to bike. I drive all over for a nice path. much traffic I am all for it. We had one up in New England.
- We need this. I love to bike. I drive all over for a nice path.
- We need more bike trails in our area.
- I think it is a great way to make our bikers & pedestrians safer.
- I like to see it completed and preserved.
- We definately need a safe place for people to walk and ride their bikes'.
- We need more trails for walking and biking in Lee County!.
- Rail trails are very important to every community!.
- SW Florida needs safe bike routes.
- Safe place to bike ride.
- Quality of life. Make our community more livable. Property values.
- I absolutely love and support this idea!! What a great idea to utilize this currently unused rail way. I'm a mom and I love the area, but I am terrified of walking/ running/ or biking on our busy road ways, and I find myself wishing for more places to safely get some movement in.
- I'm excited to find a SAFE place to ride my bike.
- When I lived in the Indianapolis area, I used the both the Monon Trail in Indy and the Zionsville rail trail on my own and as member of the Indianapolis Hiking Club. What a pleasure to walk on safe, convenient, and naturally preserved trails. The trails enhanced the quality of life in their cities, attracted businesses, improved real estate values, and connected areas and towns more difficult to reach by car. I am definitely a fan of rail trails.
- It would be great to have a bike trail close to home.
- Activity and an active life style are important for a quality of life our community endorses. Biking on roadways is not as safe as dedicated trails for riders and walkers. This is the highest and best use of this land.

- I lived in SC , they made a trail from a old railroad tracks called Swamp Rabbit Trail, from there business es opened, people walked, ran on it, biked on it, it was fabulous, everyday I walked it and met so many wonderful people too!! It is a wonderful project and I'm very excited to hear about it.
- As a long time bike rider and supporter of Rails to Trails, I strongly support the proposed construction of a multi use trail along the Seminole Gulf Railway south of Alico Road. I frequently use the John Yarbrough trail and other biking routes, including along Six Mile Cypress/Gladiola.
- Great plan for use of the old rail system and a safer place for walkers and riders. We had this across Nebraska !(Nebraska Cowboy Trail) and it's a wonderful resource .
- It would be a wonderful, healthy, safe, and fun addition to the area. It would also be an asset to area businesses, & home values.
- Would live a walking/bike trail near my home.
- Have seen other rail tracks used as bike trails. Fantastic.
- I look forward to riding my bicycle on a protected roadway, separated from automobile traffic.
- I'm an avid cyclist who was a Trailnet Ambassador in the St Louis area. I experienced the success of the trail network development from inception through completion.
- I have lived in other comunity's that successfully converted old tracks to trails. I believe it's in riches the comunity.
- Five years ago I was hit by a car riding my bike in Bonita. We need a safe place to walk run or bike in southwest Fl.
- We are from Carmel, IN where The Monon Trail has changed and improved everyone's life style and made a huge difference in business!
- I am strongly in favor. I live in North Naples, in Collier County, just a couple of miles from the Lee County border. It's unfortunate that development nixes the idea of bringing this trail deep into Collier.
- I am a resident of Pelican Landing (The Colony) and have been informed of the potential trail for walkers, riders and runners. I wholly support this idea. It will be wonderful to have a safe place to go outside our community, and the park-like setting sounds great. Having lived in New York City, I had the good fortune to be able to walk the High-Line ... a former rail line in downtown that was converted to a foot path. I made it's way through both residential and commercial buildings, had places to stop and sit, and beautiful gardens, terminating in the Meatpacking District. It was FANTASTIC!!!!
- I reside in San Carlos park. I love the idea of the rail trail and would like to be added to your distribution list and informed of any oppourtunities to be involved in the development of this great project.
- We think that the trail is a great ide and well needed with our infrastructure growing by leaps and bounds.
- This would be an amazing addition to the area.
- I live next to the old dog track. I've been hit on more than one occasion while running/cycling (no injuries thank god). This trail would be well used by me and I believe would be an excellent use of tax dollars. The city spent thousands to redo the grass at Riverside Park, only to not water and maintain it. This requires little to no maintenance and we have an avid group of runners and cyclists who would use this to stay off city roads.

- This is exactly what we need in Bonita Springs.
- Great idea. Had long lovely trails in Indiana on former railways. Gives people a safe place to walk, run or bike.
- We have a rail trail near our home in MA and it would be wonderful to see one down here near our home in Bonita Springs.
- Please fund the trails! Good for everyone!
- Would love to ride my three wheeler in a safer environment .
- Be a nice trail for all to use.
- Important to make this trail wide enough for bikers and walkers Carol Milove If you are not living on the edge you are taking up too much space.
- What a FANTASTIC idea. Exceptional use of the land.
- Yes the Bonita Estero rail trail would be an amazing plus for this community. We lives in Natura Bonita Fairways.
- My husband and I regularly ride on rails to trails in Wisconsin and they are a wonderful use of old railway tracks.
- This would be a wonderful addition to our community! We have these in upstate NY.
- We need safe places to ride bicycles. I have been hit by a car and will not venture out onto those types of roads again .
- I'm a cycling enthusiast and am excited by the prospect of a nearby rail trail, particularly since there's a dearth of safe places to ride in the area. We have a rail trail near our summer home in MA and use it frequently.
- I live in Lee County and know with the roadways the way they are now any safe walking paths are hard to find. The 41 and main road sidewalks are too close to the traffic and it is dangerous. Also, the roadway between Bonita and San Carlos has grown and the community needs a Safeway to get exercise and also a safe commute. This is needed and I support this 110%!.
- Love the green way trail.
- Enjoy the Sarasota/Venice legacy trail with my kids - would be a great feature to have local!.
- Need safer places to ride. community.
- Fort Myers San Carlos park . I would absolutely love having a trail like this. I am a runner, but also enjoy the occasional bike ride. Running is easy by sidewalk, but even then there aren't very exciting loops in this area. However, every time I go on a bike ride I fear that someone may hit me. Having a trail like this would increase the value of the area tremendously .Safe place to bike ride.
- We need more safe places to be outside. The road systems are very dangerous for pedestrians.
- I am a biker and my wife enjoys riding but not in the road. I grew up down here and we go to Venice to use the legacy trail .
- We love to ride our bikes places where there is no traffic .
- Enjoy "rails to trails" cycling greatly in Minnesota.
- Trails all over the place that my wife and I use extensively during our time in the western suburbs of Minneapolis. We would love to experience similar opportunities to cycle here in Southwest Florida. As a member of the Bonita Bay Bicycle Club I think the Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT) would enjoy wide use by our club membership, many of whom do not feel comfortable riding on the roads around our community. The Terry Street Improvement Project with the

multi-use pathway on the north side of West Terry will provide great access to BERT from Bonita Bay .

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- I bought land in Bonita Springs where the back of the lot is at the foot of the rail track so I have a direct interest in what might happen with the rail track. I bought that land because of the potential of this project happening in the future .
- I would like to have a safe environment to ride my bike, and exercise.

- Bike riders need safe options for biking. Also, to cut down on the use of cars, we need to be able to use bike trails to get to places as an alternative to driving.
- I was surprised when we moved here Florida did not have bike trails like our northern states- which have been in place for many years. Bike trails are critical for safety and they grow the economy.
- I live in Minneapolis during the summer. We have over 250 miles of off road dedicated bike trails. You can travel for the northernmost part of the Twin Cities to the southern suburbs, or the eastern suburbs to the western suburbs, or anywhere in between, including the cities extensive parks and lake system, without having conflicts with cars. The proposed 14 mile Bonita-Estero bike trail is a great start .
- I would love a long safe trail to ride my bike to keep fit and active.
- I would love to have a trail to bike on similar to the Legacy trail in Sarasota.
- We need a safe place to bike, run and walk.
- It will be a great asset to the communities throughout southwest Florida. Trail has the potential to have a positive impact for the economy along the trail and at the same time support the health and wellness of the community members. I am in full support of the project.
- Rail trails are an outstanding way to reuse abandoned rail lines. I ride on rail trails as much as possible whenever I have the chance to be in an area where they have been developed. They provide safe ways for cyclists of all ages to enjoy biking and being outdoors. I always link a trip to a rail trail with some kind of visit to a restaurant and/or another local attraction such as a museum. I have personally seen the economic development benefit of establishing rail trails in various communities I have visited.
- We need a safe alternative to on road bike lanes for recreational walking and biking. For the health of the communities.
- To have a safe trail to ride bikes. We have the Monon in Carmel Indiana- and it's wonderful! - Improved safety for cyclists -Positive impact on local economies -Encourages more people to cycle -The quality of cycling in the area will improve.
- We need safe off road space to walk and cycle to stay healthy in our local community, especially when it connects local parks and business.
- Rec Trails promote physical fitness, both in walking and biking.
- Would love to see some activities in the community and an area where it is SAFE to bike. Walk,lor run. And is away from traffic and vehicles.
- We need more safe biking trails! I love to bike, but I don't feel safe biking in the Estero area .
- We are runners bikers walkers, and we would love to have a trail nearby!
- Our roads have become so busy and we need more safe bike/walking paths to travel on whether for recreation or commuting. It gives families a place to do an affordable activity in a natural environment.
- A great amenity for the community.
- My husband and I support green space projects and using our natural resources to keep people outdoors.
- Enjoy a safe place to ride without cars.
- Need a safe place to ride my bike .

- My major forms of exercise are biking and walking. I remain concerned about safety along our busy roads. Location is ideal and would be the first step into expanding safe connections between our communities.
- Having a safe, dedicated biking and walking/running trail would greatly enhance the quality of life in the SWFL area.
- Absolutely -would be well used.
- Safe trail riding is essential to our community!!!
- We need a safe place away for Traffic and noise to bike. A shame for the rail Ed to be abandoned for so long. What a wonderful resource it can be.
- I love biking and walking and do not want to do this in an unsafe street. I think rail trails are the best option for doing these activities as I have used rail trails for years in Massachusetts.
- Love bike trails - much safer and more interesting than riding on roads.
- It offers safer area for walking and biking. It will also preserve green space ie natural area which have been shown to benefit mental health.
- I am a cyclist and it would be great to bike to work without having to deal with traffic.
- Having lived in an area of CT with extensive rail trails that my family and I frequently utilized, I would appreciate the same opportunity here.
- We had this up north. We are huge fans. Great for the whole family.
- We love to bike and would like to see a safe alternative to cycling on the roads.
- Improve health & the quality of life for everyone who uses trail. Just look at all the other trails in Florida and understand their benefits to communities, Florida & everyone who visits.
- The recreational opportunity it would give families would be great people need this desperately in his area. I need it!
- This is long overdue. I'm sure it can get lots of support with the right people promoting. I will be one and I'm a local business owner. Tell me more please. Also see the Monon trail in Indianapolis. I'm not sure how they got it approved but it's amazing.
- Here ... I am a Senior Bike Rider looking for safe places to ride.
- A great idea! A trail in Loveland Ohio transformed the town!! Best thing to happen there!
- Great way to stay healthy and join the communities together.
- Would love to have the trail available for biking!
- Need safe trails for walking/ biking.
- I'm a visitor from Canada who loves to bike. I used to spend my winters in Sarasota so you can imagine how much I miss the Legacy trail. Too dangerous to bike here. Thinking about going back to Sarasota. We need that trail down here! Thank you for what you are doing and yes, it would be good for your economy.
- Bringing multi use trails to a community helps the community and overall health and wellness of the community members. Having a safe trail separate from road traffic encourages use of the trail. Healthy active communities will thrive and have a domino effect and improve home values and overall community investments.
- I'm a bike rider and I think BERT would be a safer alternative for bikers, walkers and runners.
- I'm a cyclist and racer myself and know how difficult it is to exercise in today's traffic!
- We need bike paths and walking paths to encourage healthy behavior It will also increase property values.

- My family loves to bike and walk. What a better use of this strip of land!!!
- I have ridden several trails and have found them to be a safer option than riding on the roads. In addition, they can also be used for transportation between communities.
- Safe trails are definitely needed for bikers and walkers. The Bonita Estero rail trails makes sense.
- We Desperately need a fully functioning walking/biking path. I completely support this measure.
- I've lived in Bonita for 21 years and have been wishing for a rail to trail since the trains stopped.
- I had a nephew who was killed riding his bike on a road shared with automobiles; the cyclist will always lose. Around here, it would be great to have a dedicated bike trail where cyclists are not competing with cars, driveways and multiple intersections. The sidewalks along 41 are so narrow that it's hard to safely meet an oncoming bike. Biking is great exercise.
- I bike and walk daily. Its not safe on the roads.
- We desperately need a bike/walking path.
- On behalf of the Riverwoods Plantation Board of Directors I would like to ask for your support of the proposed Rail to Trail project on the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast Railway. After discussing this project at our most recent Board meeting, held on January 16, 2023, it was our unanimous decision to support this project. We feel it will bring improvements to our area and give the residents of our 640 homes a safe place to bike and walk. We know that staying active is a key element to enjoying long and healthy lives. We ask that the leaders of the Village of Estero, along with Bonita Springs and Lee County work with our local, state and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality. My personal support for this project comes from riding along the converted rail trails in Rhode Island where the scenery and safety made riding a pleasure. Riding in this area with the highest number of auto-bike fatalities in the country makes this project all the more pressing. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support of this most important project.
- I have had two previous experiences where RR rights of way no longer in use were converted to pedestrian/bicyclist trails. They were both nicely landscaped and easily accessible from neighborhoods. They mad using them inviting.
- Ive seen bike riders hit while rising on the street. Lets have a safe trail for bikers and pedestrians.
- wonderful idea and much safer than our current bike lanes!.
- I feel it would be Great asset to_our community and it would be much safer than bicycling and walking on the roads.
- would love to have a safe accessible exercise option.
- Hi: As seasonal Naples residents, we'd like to support Friends of BERT. Our northern home is just blocks away from the Illinois Prairie Path, the first rails-to-trails conversion in the US. It's a terrific resource.
- My wife and I live in Sterling Oaks community which borders Bonita Springs/Lee County line. I am interested in becoming a member of Friends of BERT. We think having a safe place to walk and ride is great. Would love to know more about it.
- I am an owner in Spring Run in the Brooks, a community which is right next to the rail trail at Coconut road. I am also an avid biker and belong to a biking club in our community. I wholeheartedly support converting the rail trail to a bike trail. I feel the absence of off-street trails is one of the greatest drawbacks of this community. Biking is a great recreational activity and it speaks poorly of our community to not support such a popular sport. Safety is, of course,

the greatest reason for the trail but so is the enjoyment of riding in a park without worries of riding in the road and crossing busy intersections. I know well the looks from car drivers when they have to wait for a long signal for my bike to cross. Your website indicates that there are 14 associations that endorse the trail What is the process for an HOA to add its endorsement?

- As a new member of the community, relocating from a state where bike paths are an integral part of the community, I am wholeheartedly a supporter of this!
- We are new to the Estero area and live in Belle Lago. Our community is close to where the trail crosses Estero parkway and the vines property. We think the trail will be a wonderful addition to the community and would love to know how we can help.
- The trail would so convenient for us, because we live in the Shadowwood community. The roads around us are far to congested and unsafe for recreational cycling, therefore we rarely ride outside of our community. We appreciate and thank you for your efforts to created a recreational path that can only enhance our quality of life in Southwest Florida!
- There was a similar trail in Minnesota which I biked often with my wife. It brought us so much joy! I think this rail trail will be an amazing addition to our community and well worth the cost.
- As a bike rider it would be a much added addition to all the wonderful trails in FL to have this new trail become a reality as soon as possible.
- I am president of Sustainable Planet USA. I am interested in joining your community based group to create a greatly needed bike path along the abandoned rail line.
- It would be a great outdoor addition to Estero.
- hope this passes as it would be delightful and safer than existing roads for biking!
- love to bike but scared to death of riding on our main roads.
- I return to the Philly area every Summer to see and ride all the improvements and extensions of a very impressive trail system there. The Schuylkill river trail has been there since the 701s (Valley Forge Park down to the Art Museum) . And There are many others that have made riding safer and more fun in that area. I'm 67 and I used to ride 41, BB road all the time . Not so much any more . It's gotten very dangerous ! S.W. Florida NEEDS trails like BERT !
- I would like to have a path for biking and walking for myself and our community. There are not enough places to walk and bike in southwest Florida.
- love to ride but not here on the street!!
- There are really no safe places to bicycle any distances in this area. This trail is long overdue!
- Turning these rails into trails is a great idea.
- A safe local, public, hiking, biking & judging location in Bonita Sp.; west of 75.
- It is very dangerous to walk and ride bicycles on roads. My neighbor was just hit by a car while riding his bicycle. Trails are a great place to take young children to learn to ride bicycles and exercise. Building and maintaining the rail trail will make the area nicer as well, instead of the overgrown unused tracks. Bonita Springs built a beautiful wide sidewalk on West Terry that will give people a safe way to get to the trail.
- I loved the rails to trails in Pennsylvania when we lived there and would be so happy if we had more trails around here in Bonita now that I live here.
- Love riding my bike in our community, Pelican Landing. I frequently use rail trails in Western Pennsylvania near our summer residence, The Great Allegheny Passage and others. appreciate the safety, comfort and beauty of cycling on a dedicated well planned trail. I look forward to having access to such a trail near our FL home.

- Believe in bike trails everywhere.
- To save lives!
- Love railway trails. Riding on the road, just too dangerous!
- I am a human. I want more safe places to run ride walk be. Heart & Sole triathlon team.
- Need more biking and running trails for a longer distance to stay off main roads, the traffic is getting busier everyday.
- I think this a wonderful project addressing a much needed improvement to our area. I would like to see it expanded North, maybe connecting to the other established linear park off Daniels Pkwy.
- I am a big fan of rails to trails! I love the trails in central and northern Florida. Not only am I a fan I see the positive economic impact the trails bring to the local communities along the trails. A big example for me is Winter Garden, FL and the West Orange trail going straight through the middle of downtown ... an economic boom!!! We really lack great trails here in the Naples, Bonita, Estero area. While I do not have much time at the moment to support, I would support in any way I can. The local Bonita businesses along Old 41 should be at the front of the line to help support this ... they will be the main benefactors!!!
- FYI - A new bill in the Florida legislature could provide \$250 million in funding for trails, walking and biking in the Sunshine State-and have an exciting impact on the state's growing trails network. Take action now: Urge your state legislators to support S.B. 106 to connect Florida by trails. The Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Network Bill (S.B. 106) includes a one-time investment of \$200 million in the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 state budget for the SUN Trail Network program as well as an increase in the annual funding for the program to \$50 million.
This legislation recognizes the economic engine that trails have become to Florida communities both large and small. These investments will help grow the statewide network of trails and close key gaps to connect more communities in the Sunshine State-helping everyone, everywhere, have access to safe, nonmotorized pathways to walk, bike or simply get out and enjoy the outdoors. Tell your legislators to support S.B. 106 to invest in Florida's growing trail network.
- Rails to trails connect all the towns and cities together for a safer path from vehicle traffic. It gives an opportunity to ride a bike to the next town and visit shops, parks and other attractions that otherwise would not travel to due to vehicle traffic. It promotes a healthy lifestyle for all people. Brings communities together to meet your neighbors.
- I had previously crashed on Alica Rd a few years past as a cyclist and the road is terribly unsafe. I have traveled and appreciated other SW FL trails which should be implemented in all of FL for safety purposes alone!!
- love being able to ride bikes safely for long distances. This would be such a great addition to this community.
- A walking and biking trail for our area, to link us with the existing but distant Fort Myers trail, will be a fantastic addition to our community for more physical, mental and emotional wellness!
- I like bike riding and using deserted rail trails and converting them into safe bike trails is a great idea. Hopefully it will connect to another bike trail somehow.
- Paved bike trails are great assets for communities like Estero and Bonita Springs and I enjoy biking on trails that are not along roads.
- It is also important to note that this railroad corridor has important historical significance to our area and I honestly feel this trail will better preserve its legacy than in its current abandoned state.