

**Don Scott**

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**From:** Scheible, Pamela <SCHEIBPS@uwec.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 9:38 AM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PROPOSED RAILS TO TRAILS INITIATIVE

Dear Council Member,

As a resident of The Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club I am writing to ask for your consideration to voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition because bike trails are a great way for people to recreate if located in a safe area of the community.

Alternatives 1 and 2 literally bisect our community and poses numerous safety and security concerns:

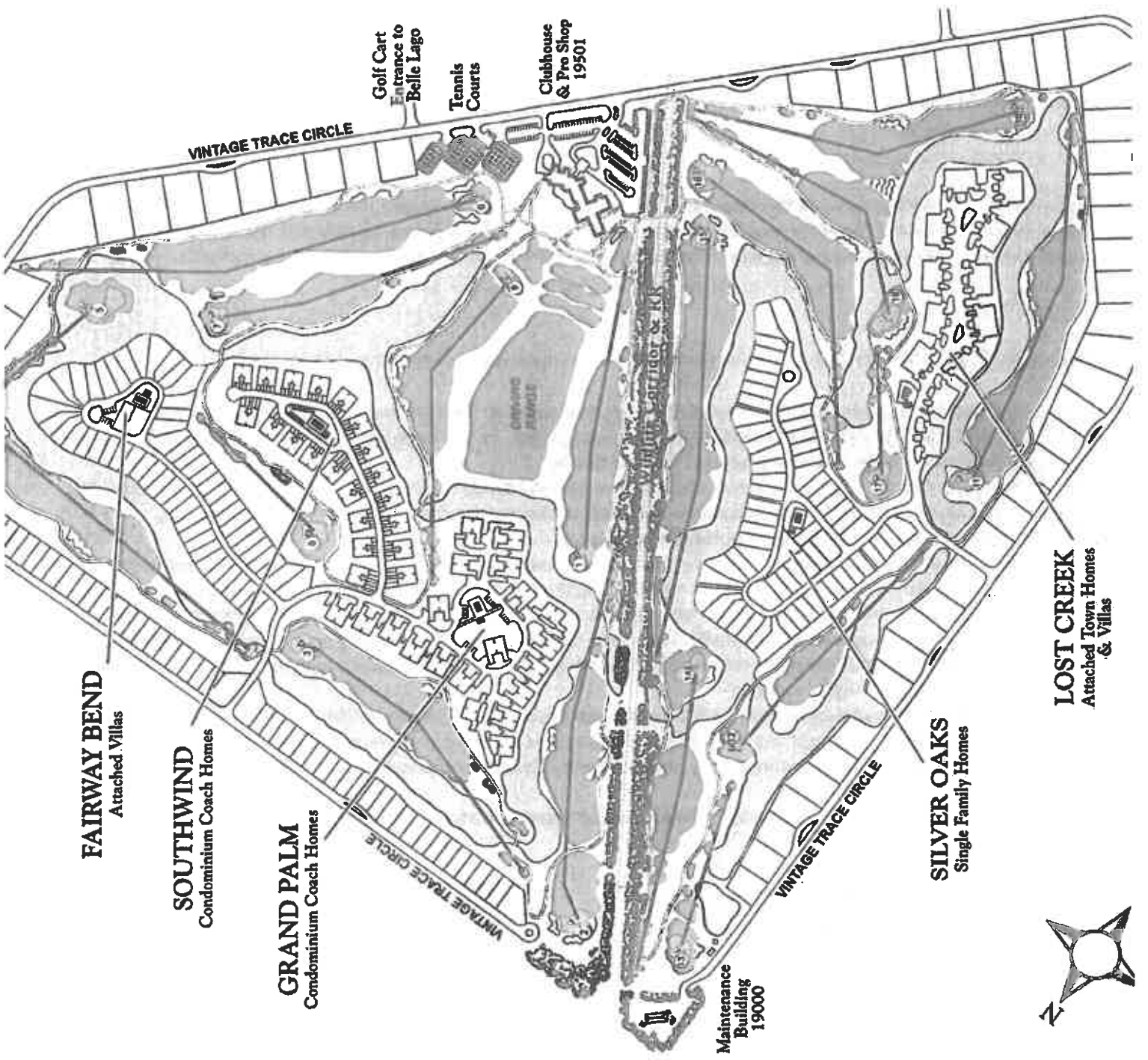
- The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.
- The trail is **STEPS** away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternatives 1 and 2 will enable **hundreds of thousands** of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My daily walks would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail". Biking in our neighborhood along Vintage Trace Circle may become encumbered due to trail traffic. I bike daily for exercise and errands and have to be on guard when sharing the road with golf carts, motorists, vending trucks and landscape service equipment. This is a robust and busy community of active retirees!
- The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day-to-day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail over a dozen times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.
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My concerns are valid and potentially serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela S. Scheible  
19496 Silver Oak Drive  
Village of Estero, FL 33967



**FAIRWAY BEND**  
Attached Villas

**SOUTHWIND**  
Condominium Coach Homes

**GRAND PALM**  
Condominium Coach Homes

**SILVER OAKS**  
Single Family Homes

**LOST CREEK**  
Attached Town Homes & Villas

VINTAGE TRACE CIRCLE

Golf Cart  
Entrance to  
Belle Lago

Tennis  
Courts

Clubhouse  
& Pro Shop  
19501

Maintenance  
Building  
19000

VINTAGE TRACE CIRCLE



**From:** Pam Atteberry <patteberr@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 3:04 PM  
**To:** Estero Country Club <communications@esterocc.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

I am a resident of The Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternatives 2 or 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternative 1 literally bisects our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

- The trail crosses over the ONLY road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.
- The trail is STEPS away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternative 1 will enable hundreds of thousands of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot.
- Alternative 1 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My daily walks would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail".
- The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pam and Boyd Atteberry  
8553 Fairway Bend Dr  
Estero FL 33967

## Don Scott

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**From:** Karen Adair <kfadair1954@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 10:45 AM  
**To:** EsteroCC; Karen Adair  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear council members,

I am a resident of The Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email and take my concerns very seriously.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 literally bisect our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

- The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.
- The trail is **STEPS** away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternative 1 will enable **hundreds of thousands** of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course, parking lot and private property.
- Alternative 1 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My home is just steps away from the railroad tracks with no pond inbetween to inhibit access to my property. My daily walks would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail".
- The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Karen Fitzgerald-Adair  
19001 Vintage Trace Circle  
Estero, Fl 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** D T <hrtallman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 10:04 AM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Cc:** jribble@estero-fl.gov; fiesel@estero-fl.gov; mclain@estero-fl.gov; errington@estero-fl.gov; Boesch@estero-fl.gov; Ward@estero-fl.gov; Wilson@estero-fl.gov; records@estero-fl.gov; sarkozy@estero-fl.gov; gary@esterolifemagazine.com; georgezalucki@outlook.com; Dist1, Kevin Ruane; Dist2, Cecil Pendergrass; Dist3, Ray Sandelli; Dist4, Brian Hamman; Dist5, Michael Greenwell; fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org; laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org; jgunter@capecoral.gov; dsheppard@capecoral.gov; jcosden@capecoral.gov; fburson@cityftmyers.com; twatkinsbrown@cityftmyers.com; jstreets@cityftmyers.com; dbonk@cityftmyers.com; raymurphy@fmbgov.com; atterholj@fmbgov.com; Scotty.Kelly@mysanibel.com; jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org; rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org; jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org; chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org; nigel.fulllick@cityofbonitasprings.org; arleen.hunter@cityofbonitasprings.org; clerk@cityofbonitasprings.org; Communications@esterocc.com; gcarlisle@cityftmyers.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

As a resident of the Vines Community, we are very interested in the Rails to Trails initiative. We have lived here for 6 years and one of the most important aspects of our buying in the Vines is the fact that it is a smaller, gated community with a private golf course. Now it seems this quality of life will be non-existent if initiative #1 comes to fruition. Security is a very real concern today and by bisecting our community in half and allowing free access into our community, we feel you are enabling many security issues. Our now private golf course will become a thoroughfare to any and all who chose to ride the trail. Who will be paying for increased security for our neighborhood? This is an initiative that can change the Vines forever. We believe it is the duty of every council member to do due diligence and come to the Vines to see exactly the impact this initiative will have. Every council member needs to see in person our community and think about how they would feel if this was going to happen to them. We may be only 440 doors, but you represent us as well and we should not be shoved so casually aside.

We are not opposed to a riding trail but we feel that there needs to be more thought into how you can best serve ALL the people.

Thank you for your time,

Doreen Tallman  
8440 Southbridge Dr #4  
Estero

**Don Scott**

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**From:** Linda & Art Bowen <linartrox@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 9:24 AM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Counsel Member

As a resident of The Village of Estero I would like to express my support, with one caveat , for the proposed Rails to Trails project that is before you. It is my understanding the trail/bike path is projected to be 14 miles long from North Naples to Alico Road in Ft. Myers on the existing rail line. The last two miles bisect the gated community of The Vines and the Estero Country Club. For security, traffic safety and environmental concerns, I would ask you to consider either making the trail 12 miles long and ending at Estero Parkway or find an alternate route that could go around this parcel so not to adversely affect the property values within The Vines community and the experience of members at the Estero Country Club. I'm looking forward to having a beautiful linear park for all to enjoy, but please keep in mind having the trail go through a private gated community and golf course will negatively affect the quality of life for many families in the Estero Community.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,

Linda Nowacki-Bowen

19574 Lost Creek Drive

Estero, FL 33967

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Don Scott

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**From:** Jean Rees <jeanrees@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2023 4:50 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com; jribble@estero-fl.gov; fiesel@estero-fl.gov; mclain@estero-fl.gov; errington@estero-fl.gov; Boesch@estero-fl.gov; Ward@estero-fl.gov; Wilson@estero-fl.gov; records@estero-fl.gov; sarkozy@estero-fl.gov; gary@esterolifemagazine.com; georgezalucki@outlook.com; Dist1, Kevin Ruane; Dist2, Cecil Pendergrass; Dist3, Ray Sandelli; Dist4, Brian Hamman; Dist5, Michael Greenwell; fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org; laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org; jgunter@capecoral.gov; dsheppard@capecoral.gov; jcosden@capecoral.gov; fburson@cityftmyers.com; twatkinsbrown@cityftmyers.com; jstreets@cityftmyers.com; dbonk@cityftmyers.com; raymurphy@fmbgov.com; atterholj@fmbgov.com; Scotty.Kelly@MySanibel.com; jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org; rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org; jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org; chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org; nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org; arleen.hunter@cityofbonitasprings.org; clerk@cityofbonitasprings.org; Communications@esterocc.com; gcarlisle@cityftmyers.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment: Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member:

The Rails to Trails proposal which is currently under consideration is designed to allow greater access to bikers, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts trails through areas designated by MPO.

This enormous MPO project, with a cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars, has failed to take into account the impact to areas in which private gated communities reside.

One such community, The Vines, a private gated community would have Rails to Trails proposal literally running directly through it. As a point of interest, the design map for the project does not even show the existence of The Vines. It does, however, show the gated community of Belle Lago, which is adjacent to The Vines, but is not directly affected by Rails to Trails.

Although The Vines applauds the use of land for greater access for outdoor activities, it does object to such access cutting directly through its gated community. A number of alternative routes have been offered, in fact, one which the MPO crafted, only to have all been cast aside.

We feel that the MPO by recommending the current proposal not only destroys the integrity of a single community, of over 500 families, but sets a broader precedent which would make possible other projects, similar or otherwise, easier to poach through other private developments. Such developments have been a basis for the enormous growth of SWFL.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,  
Jean Rees  
19733 Vintage Trace Cir  
Estero, FL 33967

## Don Scott

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**From:** Kirk DeRousse <k.derousse@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2023 3:25 PM  
**To:** jribble@estero-fl.gov; fiesel@estero-fl.gov; mclain@estero-fl.gov; errington@estero-fl.gov; Boesch@estero-fl.gov; Ward@estero-fl.gov; Wilson@estero-fl.gov; records@estero-fl.gov; sarkozy@estero-fl.gov; gary@esterolifemagazine.com; georgezalucki@outlook.com; Dist1, Kevin Ruane; Dist2, Cecil Pendergrass; Dist3, Ray Sandelli; Dist4, Brian Hamman; Dist5, Michael Greenwell; fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org; laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org; jgunter@capecoral.gov; dsheppard@capecoral.gov; jcosden@capecoral.gov; fburson@cityftmyers.com; twatkinsbrown@cityftmyers.com; jstreets@cityftmyers.com; dbonk@cityftmyers.com; raymurphy@fmbgov.com; atterholj@fmbgov.com; Scotty.Kelly@mysanibel.com; jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org; rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org; jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org; chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org; nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org; arleen.hunter@cityofbonitasprings.org; clerk@cityofbonitasprings.org; Communications@esterocc.com; gcarlisle@cityftmyers.com  
**Cc:** r.derousse@comcast.net  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

I am a member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has been less than transparent in its presentation of the long-term feasibility report for the Rails to Trails initiative to the residents of the Village of Estero and Bonita Springs.

It began at the first informational meeting in June, 2022 where we were given maps of the three alternatives for the trail. It is clear that the MPO is pushing Alternative 1, an option that literally bisects a private gated community in Estero. Interestingly, this community, The Vines, was NOT indicated on any of the maps distributed by the MPO.

It *feels* like the MPO was trying to "push" through Alternative 1 in hope that the residents of the Vines would not notice the trail literally cuts down the middle of the Vines property.

It *feels* like the MPO is not interested in listening to the residents of the Vines community.

It *feels* like the MPO could care less that the lives and property values will be adversely affected by the trail crossing through the middle of the Vines community.

It *feels* like the MPO is vague when questioned on timelines and finances.

It *feels* like the MPO does not care... It *feels* like they aren't listening... it *is* wrong.

Please imagine this trail running straight through your neighborhood for potentially 600,000 people walking down your street every single day. Just imagine that.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rosemarie DeRousse  
19225 La Serena Dr



## Don Scott

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**From:** LouAnn Hebble <lahebble@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2023 11:58 AM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

January 26, 2023

Dear Council Member,

I am a resident of the Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has been less than transparent in its presentation of the long-term feasibility report for the Rails to Trails initiative to the residents of the Village of Estero and Bonita Springs.

It began at the first informational meeting in June, 2022 where we were given maps of the three alternatives for the trail. It is clear that the MPO is pushing Alternative 1, an option that literally bisects a private gated community in Estero. Interestingly, this community, The Vines, was NOT indicated on any of the maps distributed by the MPO.

It *feels* like the MPO was trying to "push" through Alternative 1 in hope that the residents of the Vines would not notice the trail literally cuts down the middle of the Vines property.

It *feels* like the MPO is not interested in listening to the residents of the Vines community.

It *feels* like the MPO could care less that the lives and property values will be adversely affected by the trail crossing through the middle of the Vines community.

It *feels* like the MPO is vague when questioned on timelines and finances.

It *feels* like the MPO does not care... It *feels* like they aren't listening... it *is* wrong.

Please imagine this trail running straight through your neighborhood with a projected 600,000 people walking down your street at all times of day/night. Just imagine that.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Sincerely,

**Don Scott**

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**From:** Todd Scheven <todd@findansoftware.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 4:40 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

I am a resident of the Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has been less than transparent in its presentation of the long-term feasibility report for the Rails to Trails initiative to the residents of the Village of Estero and Bonita Springs.

It began at the first informational meeting in June 2022 where we were given maps of the three alternatives for the trail. It is clear that the MPO is pushing Alternative 1, an option that literally bisects a private gated community in Estero. Interestingly, this community, The Vines, was NOT indicated on any of the maps distributed by the MPO.

It *feels* like the MPO was trying to "push" through Alternative 1 in hope that the residents of the Vines would not notice the trail literally cuts down the middle of the Vines property.

It *feels* like the MPO is not interested in listening to the residents of the Vines community.

It *feels* like the MPO could care less that the lives and property values will be adversely affected by the trail crossing through the middle of the Vines community.

It *feels* like the MPO is vague when questioned on timelines and finances.

It *feels* like the MPO does not care... It *feels* like they aren't listening... it *is* wrong.

Please imagine this trail running straight through your neighborhood for potentially 600,000 people walking down your street every single day. Just imagine that.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd and Donna Scheven  
19533 Lost Creek Drive  
Estero 33967

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Pete Sorensen <Pete@advisorsq.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 3:41 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Cc:** Peggy Sorensen  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment Proposed Rails to Trails Project Initiative

Dear Council Member

As a resident of The Village of Estero I would like to express my support, with one caveat , for the proposed Rails to Trails project that is before you. It is my understanding the trail/bike path is projected to be 14 miles long from North Naples to Alico Road in Ft. Myers on the existing rail line. The last two miles bisect the gated community of The Vines and the Estero Country Club. For security, traffic safety and environmental concerns, I would ask you to consider either making the trail 12 miles long and ending at Estero Parkway or find an alternate route that could go around this parcel so not to adversely affect the property values within The Vines community and the experience of members at the Estero Country Club. I'm looking forward to having a beautiful linear park for all to enjoy, but please keep in mind having the trail go through a private gated community and golf course will negatively affect the quality of life for many families in the Estero Community.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you!

Peter Sorensen  
8411 Southbridge Dr #1  
Estero FL 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** Edward Lawrence <edlaw7@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 3:40 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rails to trails Initiative

Dear Counsel Member

As a resident of The Village of Estero I would like to express my support, with one caveat, for the proposed Rails to Trails project that is before you. It is my understanding the trail/bike path is projected to be 14 miles long from North Naples to Alico Road in Ft. Myers on the existing rail line. The last two miles bisect the gated community of The Vines and the Estero Country Club. For security, traffic safety and environmental concerns, I would ask you to consider either making the trail 12 miles long and ending at Estero Parkway or find an alternate route that could go around this parcel so not to adversely affect the property values within The Vines community and the experience of members at the Estero Country Club. I'm looking forward to having a beautiful linear park for all to enjoy, but please keep in mind having the trail go through a private gated community and golf course will negatively affect the quality of life for many families in the Estero Community.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully  
Ed Lawrence  
8466-2 Southbridge Drive  
The Vines

Sent from my iPhone

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Tom Rubbelke <rubbelke@csp.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2023 3:13 PM  
**To:** Communications  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

I am a resident of The Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club.  
Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 literally bisects our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

This path through our community takes away our security and leaves us vulnerable and open to everyone 24/7. Nearly 300 of our 440 homes are on the far side of the track, meaning the residents would need to cross the railway both coming and going each time. Owners would be crossing this proposed path at a minimum of twice daily, presenting multiple opportunities for dangerous collisions. In an emergency situation, emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.

The trail is also STEPS away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternatives 1 and 2 will enable hundreds of thousands of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot.

Alternatives 1 and 2 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My wife and I take daily walks and would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail".

The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

Please consider the Golden Rule and do not allow in our neighborhood that which you would not want in the middle of your own neighborhood,"

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Rubbelke  
19497 Silver Oak Dr  
Estero FL 33967

651-328-3322

## Don Scott

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**From:** Jeffrey G Adair <kjadair@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 11:34 AM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Cc:** jribble@estero-fl.gov; fiesel@estero-fl.gov; mclain@estero-fl.gov; errington@estero-fl.gov; Boesch@estero-fl.gov; Ward@estero-fl.gov; Wilson@estero-fl.gov; records@estero-fl.gov; sarkozy@estero-fl.gov; gary@esterolifemagazine.com; georgezalucki@outlook.com; Dist1, Kevin Ruane; Dist2, Cecil Pendergrass; Dist3, Ray Sandelli; Dist4, Brian Hamman; Dist5, Michael Greenwell; fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org; laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org; jgunter@capecoral.gov; dsheppard@capecoral.gov; jcosden@capecoral.gov; fburson@cityftmyers.com; twatkinsbrown@cityftmyers.com; jstreets@cityftmyers.com; dbonk@cityftmyers.com; raymurphy@fmbgov.com; atterholj@fmbgov.com; Scotty.Kelly@MySanibel.com; jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org; rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org; jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org; chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org; nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org; arleen.hunter@cityofbonitasprings.org; clerk@cityofbonitasprings.org; Communications@esterocc.com; gcarlisle@cityftmyers.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] COMMENT --- Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

I have been a resident of The Vines Community and member of Estero Country Club since 2005. Let me begin with by stating that I hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 bisect our community and pose many safety and security concerns to our residents:

- The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road that leads to the majority of our residents homes which means that emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need, potentially causing a catastrophic situation. As you know, delayed response time could be the difference between life and death.
- The trail is within 25 yards from the hub of our community, our clubhouse, and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternatives 1 and 2 will enable **thousands** of people unfettered access to our facilities --- clubhouse, restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot. Such access would cause severe safety and liability concerns for our residents.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 expose our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. Daily walks, jogging, and cycling would no longer be safe in our own neighborhood. Residents would not feel safe walking alone in their community for fear of potential "off trail" individuals trespassing within the Vines. As it is, outside individuals currently access our community through unrestricted access via the railroad tracks.
- The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Gail McCracken <gmccracken5525@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 11:41 AM  
**To:** ESTERO CC - Taylor  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

I am a resident of The Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 literally bisect our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

- The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.
- The trail is **STEPS** away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternatives 1 and 2 will enable **hundreds of thousands** of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My daily walks would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail".
- The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Gail McCracken**

[gmccracken5525@gmail.com](mailto:gmccracken5525@gmail.com)  
19350 Northbridge Way  
Estero, FL 33967  
Mobile: 239-222-2812

**Don Scott**

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**From:** Bob and Sylvia Curtis <golfandswim24-7@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 1:58 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

January 27, 2023

Dear Council Member,

We have been owners in the Vines Community since 1997 and a full time resident since 2005. We are full time Florida residents. We are distraught that this Rails to Trails proposal will bisect our private gated community. We were recently in Winter Garden, FL and observed the rails to trails in that community. The walkers and bikers were not yielding to traffic on the roads and presented a real safety issue. We have heard no mention of how the traffic pattern will be accomplished in our community or even on Estero Parkway or Corkscrew Road.

This proposed trail divides our gated community and private member owned golf course. We purchased our home in the Vines for the security of a gated community. There are other options that would not cross our community. These options should be on the table and any option that enters our community should be off. How do you propose keeping the trail users off of our golf course and out of our facilities? Who assumes liability when a trail user is hit by a golf ball?

We are an Audubon Certified Golf Course Sanctuary. Part of this certification indicated that the abandoned railroad is a wildlife corridor. Bobcats and Florida panthers frequent this area, as well as smaller wildlife. What will be done to preserve this corridor?

It is our understanding that no Rails to Trails in the entire country crosses through a gated private community. Our concern is a total loss of privacy, diminished home values, and increased risk of vandalism.

We need you to vote to exclude the Vines Community and the Estero Country Club from the trail. You represent us,

Sincerely,

Sylvia and Bob Curtis  
19625 Vintage Trace Circle  
Estero, FL 33967



**Don Scott**

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**From:** Tina Williams <tntdigs@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 2:10 PM  
**To:** Communications@esterocc.com  
**Cc:** Tina Williams  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Counsel Member

As a resident of The Village of Estero I would like to express my support, with one caveat , for the proposed Rails to Trails project that is before you. It is my understanding the trail/bike path is projected to be 14 miles long from North Naples to Alico Road in Ft. Myers on the existing rail line. The last two miles bisect the gated community of The Vines and the Estero Country Club. For security, traffic safety and environmental concerns, I would ask you to consider either making the trail 12 miles long and ending at Estero Parkway or find an alternate route that could go around this parcel so not to adversely affect the property values within The Vines community and the experience of members at the Estero Country Club. I'm looking forward to having a beautiful linear park for all to enjoy, but please keep in mind having the trail go through a private gated community and golf course will negatively affect the quality of life for many families in the Estero Community.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,

Name

Address

Tina & Tony Williams  
19411 La Serena Dr  
Estero, Fl. 33967

## Don Scott

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**From:** Gloria Beck <g19773beck@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 2:27 PM  
**To:** EsteroCC; jribble@estero-fl.gov; fiesel@estero-fl.gov; mclain@estero-fl.gov; errington@estero-fl.gov; Boesch@estero-fl.gov; Ward@estero-fl.gov; Wilson@estero-fl.gov; records@estero-fl.gov; sarkozy@estero-fl.gov; georgezalucki@estero-fl.gov; Dist1, Kevin Ruane; Dist2, Cecil Pendergrass; Dist3, Ray Sandelli; Dist4, Brian Hamman; Dist5, Michael Greenwell; fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org; laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org; jgunter@capecoral.gov; dsheppard@capecoral.gov; jcosden@capecoral.gov; fburson@cityftmyers.com; twatkinsbrown@cityftmyers.com; jstreets@cityftmyers.com; dbonk@cityftmyers.com; atterholj@fmbgov.com; Scotty.Kelly@mysanibel.com; jamiebogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org; rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org; jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org; chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org; nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org; arleen.hunter@cityofbonitasprings.org; clerk@cityofbonitasprings.org; gcarlisle@cityftmyers.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

Letter 4

Dear Council Member:

The Rails to Trails proposal which is currently under consideration is designed to allow greater access to bikers, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts trails through areas designated by MPO.

This enormous MPO project, with a cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars, has failed to take into account the impact to areas in which private gated communities reside.

One such community, The Vines, a private gated community would have Rails to Trails proposal literally running directly through it. As a point of interest, the design map for the project does not even show the existence of The Vines. It does, however, show the gated community of Belle Lago, which is adjacent to The Vines, but is not directly affected by Rails to Trails.

Although The Vines applauds the use of land for greater access for outdoor activities, it does object to such access cutting directly through its gated community. A number of alternative routes have been offered, in fact, one which the MPO crafted, only to have all been cast aside.

We feel that the MPO by recommending the current proposal not only destroys the integrity of a single community, of over 500 families, but sets a broader precedent which would make possible other projects, similar or otherwise, easier to poach through other private developments. Such developments have been a basis for the enormous growth of SWFL.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,

Gloria Beck

19773 Vintage Trace Circle

## Don Scott

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**From:** jjechko@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 3:39 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

I am a resident of the Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has been less than transparent in its presentation of the long-term feasibility report for the Rails to Trails initiative to the residents of the Village of Estero and Bonita Springs.

It began at the first informational meeting in June, 2022 where we were given maps of the three alternatives for the trail. It is clear the MPO is pushing Alternative 1, an option that literally bisects a private gated community in Estero. Interestingly, this community, The Vines, was NOT indicated on any of the maps distributed by the MPO.

It *feels* like the MPO was trying to "push" through Alternative 1 in hope that the residents of the Vines would not notice the trail literally cuts down the middle of the Vines property.

It *feels* like the MPO is not interested in listening to the residents of the Vines community.

It *feels* like the MPO could not care less that the lives and property values will be adversely affected by the trail crossing through the middle of the Vines community.

It *feels* like the MPO is vague when questioned on timelines and finances.

It *feels* like the MPO does not care... It *feels* like they aren't listening... it *is* wrong.

Please imagine this trail running straight through your neighborhood for potentially 600,000 people walking down your street every single day. Just imagine that.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jeff Echko  
8441 Southbridge Dr  
Unit 4  
Estero, FL 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** jjedae@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 4:05 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

I am a resident of The Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 literally bisect our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

- The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.
- The trail is **STEPS** away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternatives 1 and 2 will enable **hundreds of thousands** of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My daily walks would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail".
- The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Deborah Echko  
8441 Southbridge Dr.  
Unit 4  
Estero, FL 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** Wendi <wjbazemore@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 4:13 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Cc:** WENDI BAZEMORE  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member:

The Rails to Trails proposal which is currently under consideration is designed to allow greater access to bikers, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts trails through areas designated by MPO. I am a bike rider and have enjoyed other bike trails built on old railways, including the JY Linear bike path. My husband and I look forward to being able to utilize a rails to trails bike path in the future in Estero and Bonita Springs.

This enormous MPO project however, with a cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars, has failed to take into account the impact to areas in which private gated communities reside.

One such community, The Vines, a private gated community would have Rails to Trails proposal literally running directly through it. As a point of interest, the design map for the project does not even show the existence of The Vines. It does, however, show the gated community of Belle Lago, which is adjacent to The Vines, but is not directly affected by Rails to Trails.

Although The Vines applauds the use of land for greater access for outdoor activities, it does object to such access cutting directly through its gated community. A number of alternative routes have been offered, in fact, one which the MPO crafted, only to have all been cast aside.

We feel that the MPO by recommending the current proposal not only destroys the integrity of a single community, of over 500 families, but sets a broader precedent which would make possible other projects, similar or otherwise, easier to poach through other private developments. Such developments have been a basis for the enormous growth of SWFL.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,

Wendi J Bazemore  
8281 Grand Palm Dr, #4  
Estero, FL 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** John Feraco <feracojohn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 5:01 PM  
**To:** Communications  
**Cc:** John Feraco; Lisa Feraco; Lisa Feraco  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member

As a resident of The Village of Estero I would like to express my support, with one caveat, for the proposed Rails to Trails project that is before you. It is my understanding the trail/bike path is projected to be 14 miles long from North Naples to Alico Road in Ft. Myers on the existing rail line. The last two miles bisect the gated community of The Vines, including the Estero Country Club. For security, traffic safety and environmental concerns, I would ask you to consider either making the trail 12 miles long and ENDING at Estero Parkway or find an alternate route that could go AROUND this parcel so not to adversely affect the property within The Vines community and the experience of members at the Estero Country Club. I'm looking forward to having a beautiful linear park for all to enjoy, but please keep in mind having the trail go through a private gated community and golf course will negatively affect the quality of life for many families in the Estero Community.

**Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.**

Respectfully,  
John Feraco  
19107 Vintage Trace Circle  
Estero, FL 33967

## Don Scott

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**From:** jino128@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 6:02 PM  
**To:** jribble@estero-fl.gov; fiesel@estero-fl.gov; mclain@estero-fl.gov; errington@estero-fl.gov; Boesch@estero-fl.gov; Ward@estero-fl.gov; Wilson@estero-fl.gov; records@estero-fl.gov; sarkozy@estero-fl.gov; gary@esterolifemagazine.com; georgezalucki@outlook.com; Dist1, Kevin Ruane; Dist2, Cecil Pendergrass; Dist3, Ray Sandelli; Dist4, Brian Hamman; Dist5, Michael Greenwell; fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org; laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org; jgunter@capecoral.gov; dsheppard@capecoral.gov; jcosden@capecoral.gov; fburson@cityftmyers.com; twatkinsbrown@cityftmyers.com; jstreets@cityftmyers.com; dbonk@cityftmyers.com; raymurphy@fmbgov.com; atterholj@fmbgov.com; Scotty.Kelly@MySanibel.com; jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org; rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org; jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org; chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org; nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org; arleen.hunter@cityofbonitasprings.org; clerk@cityofbonitasprings.org; Communications@esterocc.com; gcarlisle@cityftmyers.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RAILS TO TRAILS

### I AM OPPOSED TO THE BIKE/WALKING TRAIL:

#1. I pay a fee to live in a gated community in my retirement years. I do not want walkers/bikers having access to my home. The police department would be overworked.

#2. Where are you getting this humongous amount of money from?

#3. How on earth are the users of the Trail going to cross Corkscrew and Estero Blvd. with the amount of traffic on these roads.

#4. How are the walkers/bikers going to cross Vintage Trace Circle, which is a private road.

#5. How do us elderly golfers avoid hitting these trail users with our miss hit golf shots, being as the rail road goes right through the middle of our golf course.

Norma Eves... 19307 Vintage Trace Circle, Estero, 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** glenn gerber <glgerber528@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2023 9:59 AM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] comment-proposed rails to trails initiative

Dear Counsel Member:

I am a resident of The Vines in Estero. I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO Feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 bisect our community and pose safety and security concerns that are an unfair burden on homeowners in The Vines.

Through the purchase price of my home and our HOA dues, I pay for the added security of living in a gated community with a guard who checks the identity of all who enter to confirm they are authorized to be here. While the vast majority of users of the proposed bike trail will be law-abiding and respectful, the extension of the trail through our community will allow easy access to our homes by people interested in committing crime. The premium I have paid for extra security will be lost and the value of my property will decrease.

While a safe bike trail is a tremendous public benefit, the homeowners of The Vines will be bearing much more than their share of the cost if the trail is allowed to bisect our community. I support the bike trail as long as it does not bisect The Vines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Glenn Gerber  
8400 Southbridge Dr. Unit 2  
Estero, FL 33967



## Don Scott

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**From:** almac17992@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2023 10:06 AM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment-proposed rails to trails initiative

Dear Council Member,

I am a resident of The Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 literally bisect our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

- The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.
- The trail is **STEPS** away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternatives 1 and 2 will enable **hundreds of thousands** of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My daily walks would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail".
- The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jane Sotebeer  
19049 Vintage Trace Circle  
Estero, FL 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** Don Greenglass <dongreenglass@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2023 3:00 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rail to Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

I am a resident of The Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 literally bisects our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.

The trail is **STEPS** away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternatives 1 and 2 will enable **hundreds of thousands** of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot.

Alternatives 1 and 2 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My daily walks would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail".

The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Greenglass  
19531 Lost Creek Drive  
Estero, FL. 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** Bruce Ackerman <backerman@pashmanstein.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2023 4:28 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] "Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative"

Dear MPO Members, Commissioners, and Council Members:

I am writing and asking for your support to protect the safety and security of The Vines community and Estero Country Club when you address approval of The Rails to Trails proposal. While the project is designed to allow greater access to bikers, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts trails through areas designated by MPO at a cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars, the MPO planner and planning report has failed to take into account the impact to areas in which private gated communities reside.

One such community, The Vines, a private gated community would have Rails to Trails proposal literally running directly through it. As a point of interest, the planner's design map for the project does not even show the existence of The Vines on its map, although the rail trail would bisect this community. It does, however, show the adjacent gated community of Belle Lago, which is not directly affected at all by Rails to Trails. Ask yourself why that is totally missing?

Although The Vines applauds the use of land for greater access for outdoor activities, we object to such access cutting directly through its gated community. A number of alternative routes have been offered, in fact, one which the MPO crafted, only to have all been cast aside in a perfunctory manner and without any meaningful rating or analysis as with all the other trail alternatives reviewed.

The alternatives have hardly been studied but dismissed, apparently because, as they say, the Sun Trust grant funds would be less if the entire railroad was not used for the bikers. However, is the funding or sound planning objectives actually driving this project? Is the funding to be sought without regard for the effect on the safety and security of our own residents in gated communities?

We feel that the MPO by recommending the current proposal not only destroys the integrity of a single community, of over 500 families, but sets a broader precedent which would make possible other projects, similar or otherwise, easier to come through other private developments. Such developments have been a basis for the enormous growth of SWFL. And no other gated community in Florida has such a trail going through it. What does that say in terms of proper planning and respect for all residents?

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the direct trail bikeway and do the right thing for the people you represent. Take action to protect the safety and security of The Vines, so no public park user can just leave the trail and enter our gated community. Thank you for your time and attention.

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Scott B <scottbhouse@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2023 4:45 PM  
**To:** Taylor Del Valle  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Counsel Member

As a resident of The Village of Estero I would like to express my support, with one caveat , for the proposed Rails to Trails project that is before you. It is my understanding the trail/bike path is projected to be 14 miles long from North Naples to Alico Road in Ft. Myers on the existing rail line. The last two miles bisect the gated community of The Vines and the Estero Country Club. For security, traffic safety and environmental concerns, I would ask you to consider either making the trail 12 miles long and ending at Estero Parkway or find an alternate route that could go around this parcel so not to adversely affect the property values within The Vines community and the experience of members at the Estero Country Club. I'm looking forward to having a beautiful linear park for all to enjoy, but please keep in mind having the trail go through a private gated community and golf course will negatively affect the quality of life for many families in the Estero Community.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,  
Scott Billings  
19765 Vintage Trace Circle  
Estero, FL 33967

*Scott Billings*

Scott Billings  
630-992-6624

## Don Scott

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**From:** Linda Hines <lhinesr48@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2023 5:20 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Cc:** jribble@estero-fl.gov; fiesel@estero-fl.gov; mclain@estero-fl.gov; errington@estero-fl.gov; Boesch@estero-fl.gov; Ward@estero-fl.gov; Wilson@estero-fl.gov; records@estero-fl.gov; sarkozy@estero-fl.gov; gary@esterolifemagazine.com; georgezalucki@outlook.com; Dist1, Kevin Ruane; Dist2, Cecil Pendergrass; Dist3, Ray Sandelli; Dist4, Brian Hamman; Dist5, Michael Greenwell; fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org; laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org; jgunter@capecoral.gov; dsheppard@capecoral.gov; jcosden@capecoral.gov; fbursen@cityftmyers.com; twatkinsbrown@cityftmyers.com; jstreets@cityftmyers.com; dbonk@cityftmyers.com; raymurphy@fmbgov.com; atterholj@fmbgov.com; Scotty.Kelly@misanibel.com; jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org; rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org; jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org; chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org; nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org; arleen.hunter@cityofbonitasprings.org; clerk@cityofbonitasprings.org; Communications@esterocc.com; gcarlisle@cityftmyers.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative  
**Attachments:** PastedGraphic-2.pdf

Dear Council Member,

My name is Linda Hines and I am a resident in The Vines Community and a member of Estero Country Club. I am writing this to you because while I am in favor of the overall intent of what the Rails to Trails proposal intends, the way that it will be implemented will have major, negative consequences for myself and hundreds of families that you represent from my private, gated community.

I strongly request that you vote for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 literally bisect our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

- The trail crosses over the only road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. We are a community with many retirees and other vulnerable people. Any delayed response that comes from these proposals can lead to unnecessary tragedy.
- The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail multiple times a day. Having to be aware of and wait for multiple walkers and riders is a major inconvenience as well as a safety concern for us all.
- The trail is steps away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternatives 1 and 2 will enable hundreds of thousands of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot. It will be impossible for our community's security to monitor and prevent non community members from the trails to enter our private community.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 exposes our residents to public trespassing of our homes, yards, streets and expensive, private amenities. We will no longer have the security of a gated community which will destroy the value and safety of our property. This will make it undesirable to live in the Vines.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 exposes public users of the trail crossing through our community to risk of injury or death as well. Since the proposed trails bisect into a main fairway and our golf course, users of the trail are vulnerable to being injured from launched golf balls, struck by golf carts and motor vehicles. Alternative 3 will prevent these unnecessary risks to the public and our community.

Please take these concerns and risks seriously. I strongly object to Alternative 1 and 2 as it is an invasion to our community and private property. Alternative 3 needs to be used in order to protect the public and our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Hines  
19331 Silver Oak Drive  
Estero, FL 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** sharyn oneill <sharynoneill46@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2023 5:59 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] COmment- Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member:

The Rails to Trails proposal which is currently under consideration is designed to allow greater access to bikers, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts trails through areas designated by MPO. This enormous MPO project, with a cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars, has failed to take into account the impact to areas in which private gated communities reside.

One such community, The Vines, a private gated community would have Rails to Trails proposal literally running directly through it. As a point of interest, the design map for the project does not even show the existence of The Vines. It does, however, show the gated community of Belle Lago, which is adjacent to The Vines, but is not directly affected by Rails to Trails.

Although The Vines applauds the use of land for greater access for outdoor activities, it does object to such access cutting directly through its gated community. A number of alternative routes have been offered, in fact, one which the MPO crafted, only to have all been cast aside.

We feel that the MPO by recommending the current proposal not only destroys the integrity of a single community, of over 500 families, but sets a broader precedent which would make possible other projects, similar or otherwise, easier to poach through other private developments. Such developments have been a basis for the enormous growth of SWFL.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,

Sharyn O'Neill  
8411 Southbridge Drive  
Unit 4.  
Estero, FL 33967

## Don Scott

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**From:** Edward O'Neill <eoneill@btccpa.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2023 6:26 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment- Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

I am a resident of The Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 literally bisects our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

- The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.
- The trail is **STEPS** away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternatives 1 and 2 will enable **hundreds of thousands** of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My daily walks would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail".
- The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ed O'Neill  
8411 Southbridge Drive  
Unit 4  
Estero, FDL 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** msm10 <msm10@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2023 9:54 AM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Counsel Member

My name is Mark Miller. I am a year round resident of The Vines community, and a member of Estero Country Club. I would appreciate you taking the time to read this letter concerning the potential of the Rails to Trail bike/walking path to bisect the The Vines/Estero Country Club property. I support the Rails to Trails project but do NOT support it cutting through any gated communities. It is my understanding the trail/bike path is projected to be 14 miles long from North Naples to Alico Road in Ft. Myers on the existing rail line. The last two miles bisect the gated community of The Vines and the Estero Country Club. For security, traffic safety, environmental and other concerns, I would ask you to strongly consider making the trail 12 miles long and ending at Estero Parkway, or find an alternate route that goes around this parcel so not to adversely affect the safety, security, esthetics and property values within The Vines community and the experience of members at the Estero Country Club. Additionally, shortening the path by ending at Estero Parkway would save taxpayer money on a very expensive project by shortening the length from 14 to 12 miles which is a "win-win" proposition.

I'm looking forward to having a beautiful linear park for all to enjoy, but please keep in mind having the trail go through a private gated community and golf course will negatively affect the quality of life for reasons listed above for many families in the Estero Community and set a very bad precedent.

As a 24 year military veteran I served to protect our liberty, rights and freedoms in the United States. As members of representative government you represent all stakeholders in this issue and though I believe there are many individuals who want the project to cut through the Vines/ECC you must represent those who do not want it as well. The Quote below from Thomas Jefferson's 1<sup>st</sup> inaugural address sums it up well:

"Bear in mind this sacred principal, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal laws must protect, and to violate would be oppression."

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail.

Respectfully,

Cdr Mark S Miller, USN (ret)

8500 Fairway Bend Dr

Estero, FL 33967



## Don Scott

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**From:** Hallie Schneeweiss <hfschneeweiss@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2023 3:51 PM  
**To:** Lisa Dillinger  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment- Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Council Members

I am a resident of The Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take moment to continue reading this email.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 literally bisects our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

- I The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.
- The trail is STEPS away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternatives 1 and 2 will enable **hundreds of thousands** of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My daily walks would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail".
- The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hallie Schneeweiss  
19721 Vintage Trace Circle  
Estero

**Don Scott**

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**From:** David Schneeweiss <dfs1996@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2023 4:10 PM  
**To:** EsteroCC  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] comment-Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Council Members

I am a resident of The Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take moment to continue reading this email.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 literally bisects our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

- I The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.
- The trail is STEPS away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternatives 1 and 2 will enable **hundreds of thousands** of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My daily walks would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail".
- The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

David Schneeweiss  
19721 Vintage Trace Circle  
Estero

## Don Scott

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**From:** JOAN OSULLIVAN <josullivan340@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2023 4:15 PM  
**To:** jribble@estero-fl.gov; fiesel@estero-fl.gov; mclain@estero-fl.gov; errington@estero-fl.gov; Boesch@estero-fl.gov; Ward@estero-fl.gov; Wilson@estero-fl.gov; records@estero-fl.gov; sarkozy@estero-fl.gov; gary@esterolifemagazine.com; georgezalucki@outlook.com; Dist1, Kevin Ruane; Dist2, Cecil Pendergrass; Dist3, Ray Sandelli; Dist4, Brian Hamman; Dist5, Michael Greenwell; fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org; laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org; jgunter@capecoral.gov; dsheppard@capecoral.gov; jcosden@capecoral.gov; fburson@cityftmyers.com; twatkinsbrown@cityftmyers.com; jstreets@cityftmyers.com; dbonk@cityftmyers.com; raymurphy@fmbgov.com; atterholj@fmbgov.com; Scotty.Kelly@misanibel.com; jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org; rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org; jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org; chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org; nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org; arleen.hunter@cityofbonitasprings.org; clerk@cityofbonitasprings.org; Communications; gcarlisle@cityftmyers.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member:

The Rails to Trails proposal which is currently under consideration is designed to allow greater access to bikers, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts trails through areas designated by MPO. This enormous MPO project, with a cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars, has failed to take into account the impact to areas in which private gated communities reside.

One such community, The Vines, a private gated community would have Rails to Trails proposal literally running directly through it. As point of interest, the design map for the project does not even show the existence of the Vines. It does, however, show the gated community of Belle Lago, which is adjacent to the Vines, but is not directly affected by Rails to Trails.

The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will negatively impact our lives in a number of ways: security, traffic safety and environmental concerns. I would ask you to consider either making the trail 12 miles long and ending at Estero Parkway or find an alternate route that could go around this parcel so not to adversely affect the lives and community of the Vines and Estero Country Club.

Although The Vines applauds the use of land for greater access for outdoor activities, it does object to such access cutting directly through its gated community. A number of alternative routes have been offered, in fact, one which the MPO crafted, only to have all been cast aside.

We feel that the MPO by recommending the current proposal not only destroys the integrity of a single community, of over 500 families, but sets a broader precedent which would make possible other projects, similar or otherwise, easier to poach through other private developments. Such developments have been a basis for the enormous growth of SWFL.

Please vote to exclude the Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,

## Don Scott

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**From:** Lisa Feraco <lisaferaco@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2023 6:40 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Cc:** jribble@estero-fl.gov; fiesel@estero-fl.gov; mclain@estero-fl.gov; errington@estero-fl.gov; Boesch@estero-fl.gov; Ward@estero-fl.gov; Wilson@estero-fl.gov; records@estero-fl.gov; sarkozy@estero-fl.gov; gary@esterolifemagazine.com; georgezalucki@outlook.com; Dist1, Kevin Ruane; Dist2, Cecil Pendergrass; Dist3, Ray Sandelli; Dist4, Brian Hamman; Dist5, Michael Greenwell; fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org; laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org; jgunter@capecoral.gov; dsheppard@capecoral.gov; jcosden@capecoral.gov; fburson@cityftmyers.com; twatkinsbrown@cityftmyers.com; jstreets@cityftmyers.com; dbonk@cityftmyers.com; raymurphy@fmbgov.com; atterholj@fmbgov.com; Scotty.Kelly@mysanibel.com; jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org; rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org; jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org; chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org; nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org; arleen.hunter@cityofbonitasprings.org; clerk@cityofbonitasprings.org; gcarlisle@cityftmyers.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

As a resident of The Village of Estero I would like to express my support, with one caveat , for the proposed Rails to Trails project that is before you. It is my understanding the trail/bike path is projected to be 14 miles long from North Naples to Alico Road in Ft. Myers on the existing rail line. The last two miles bisect the gated community of The Vines and the Estero Country Club. For security, traffic safety and environmental concerns, I would ask you to consider either making the trail 12 miles long and ending at Estero Parkway (which is itself a safety hazard for those utilizing the trail and would be attempting to cross) or find an alternate route that could go around this parcel so not to adversely affect the property values within The Vines community and the experience of members at the Estero Country Club.

The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road (a private road with limited access) that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.

Additionally, I feel that the MPO by recommending the current proposal not only adversely affects the integrity of a single community, of over 500 families, but sets a broader precedent which would make possible other projects, similar or otherwise, easier to poach through other private developments. Such developments have been a basis for the enormous growth of SWFL.

I'm looking forward to having a beautiful linear park for all to enjoy, but please keep in mind having the trail go through a private gated community and golf course will negatively affect the quality of life for many families in the Estero Community.

**Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.**

Respectfully,  
Lisa Feraco  
19107 Vintage Trace Circle

**Don Scott**

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**From:** Linda McKegney <lkmckegney2434@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2023 7:53 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] proposed Rail and trails

Please don't let the bike trail go through the Vines Community. As a senior citizen I now feel safe in my gated community.

However, with the potential of many strangers riding right through the middle of where I live doesn't seem very safe.

Linda McKegney

## Don Scott

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**From:** Deborah Kogut <debkogut@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 10:53 AM  
**To:** Estero CC  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member,

I am a resident of The Vines Community/member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternatives 1 and 2 literally bisects our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

- The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.
- The trail is **STEPS** away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternatives 1 and 2 will enable **hundreds of thousands** of people access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My daily walks would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail".
- The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kogut  
8547 Fairway Bend Drive  
Estero, FL 33967

**Don Scott**

---

**From:** Linda Bowen <linartrox@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 3:12 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails To Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member:

The Rails to Trails proposal which is currently under consideration is designed to allow greater access to bikers, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts trails through areas designated by MPO.

This enormous MPO project, with a cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars, has failed to take into account the impact to areas in which private gated communities reside.

One such community, The Vines, a private gated community would have Rails to Trails proposal literally running directly through it. As a point of interest, the design map for the project does not even show the existence of The Vines. It does, however, show the gated community of Belle Lago, which is adjacent to The Vines, but is not directly affected by Rails to Trails.

Although The Vines applauds the use of land for greater access for outdoor activities, it does object to such access cutting directly through its gated community. A number of alternative routes have been offered, in fact, one which the MPO crafted, only to have all been cast aside.

We feel that the MPO by recommending the current proposal not only destroys the integrity of a single community of over 500 families, but sets a broader precedent which would make possible other projects, similar or otherwise, easier to poach through other private developments. Such developments have been a basis for the enormous growth of SWFL.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,

Arthur Bowen

19574 Lost Creek Drive

Estero, FL 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** fitz1956@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 4:50 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment - Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Council Member:

The Rails to Trails proposal which is currently under consideration is designed to allow greater access to bikers, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts trails through areas designated by MPO. This enormous MPO project, with a cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars, has failed to take into account the impact to areas in which private gated communities reside.

One such community, The Vines, a private gated community would have Rails to Trails proposal literally running directly through it. As a point of interest, the design map for the project does not even show the existence of The Vines. It does, however, show the gated community of Belle Lago, which is adjacent to The Vines, but is not directly affected by Rails to Trails.

Although The Vines applauds the use of land for greater access for outdoor activities, it does object to such access cutting directly through its gated community. A number of alternative routes have been offered, in fact, one which the MPO crafted, only to have all been cast aside.

We feel that the MPO by recommending the current proposal not only destroys the integrity of a single community, of over 500 families, but sets a broader precedent which would make possible other projects, similar or otherwise, easier to poach through other private developments. Such developments have been a basis for the enormous growth of SWFL.

I ask that you please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,  
Name : Peggy Fitzpatrick  
Address: 8549 Fairway Bend Dr.  
Estero, FL 23967



**Don Scott**

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**From:** wmattreylaw@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 5:06 PM  
**To:** Communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MPO Initiative

Dear Counsel Member

As a resident of The Village of Estero I would like to express my support, with one caveat , for the proposed Rails to Trails project that is before you. It is my understanding the trail/bike path is projected to be 14 miles long from North Naples to Alico Road in Ft. Myers on the existing rail line. The last two miles bisect the gated community of The Vines and the Estero Country Club. For security, traffic safety and environmental concerns, I would ask you to consider either making the trail 12 miles long and ending at Estero Parkway or find an alternate route that could go around this parcel so not to adversely affect the property values within The Vines community and the experience of members at the Estero Country Club. I'm looking forward to having a beautiful linear park for all to enjoy, but please keep in mind having the trail go through a private gated community and golf course will negatively affect the quality of life for many families in the Estero Community.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,

William H Mattrey  
8281 Grand Palm Dr. #4  
Estero, FL 33967

## Don Scott

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**From:** Dave O'hara <dave.ohara@thehortongroup.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 6:21 PM  
**To:** commu  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment-Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

I am astounded that ANYONE is still considering a public path through a Private Gated Community with a Private Golf Course going right through the middle of the community and private golf course. Every 8 minutes Golf Carts will be cutting right through this bicycle path since it is the only way to get to the next 9 holes.. How will you be able to avoid collisions with bikes and carts? How are you going to prevent anyone from the public from getting off the path and destroying greens or robbing our residents or worse. It is not just bicyclists that can now circumvent our front gate and cause mayhem. Mini bikes could also quickly drive on our course and destroy our greens.

If the proposed Rails to Trails is allowed to come through the Vines Community, our safety, security, and property values will be ruined. Never has a bike path gone through the middle of a gated community and private country club.

There are alternates that stop at Estero Parkway and could restart at San Carlos Blvd. Consider only those alternates. Over 500 households will be very negatively impacted by this invasion of our property..

Whomever would be responsible for permitting this trail to go through The Vines, can expect legal action to be immediately taken by the Vines Community. I sincerely hope that those of you considering voting for this matter will realize the future potential problems this will cause and that you keep the five hundred plus households in The Vines, and vote NO for the Rails to Trails pathway through our community.

Dave O'Hara, 19455 Silver Oak Dr., Estero, Fla 33967

### DAVE O'HARA

Independent Contractor

**o:** | **c:** (847) 344-0880

**email:** dave.ohara@thehortongroup.com

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## Don Scott

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**From:** Honora Ostermann <honoramq@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 6:34 PM  
**To:** communications@esterocc.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment-Proposed Rails to Trails Initiative

I am writing to express my sincere concern over the proposed initiative to put a bike trail through the Vines Community. Although I am in favor of a bike path for the general community, it seems inconceivable to put a path in the middle of a private, gated community like The Vines where the environment and safety of our golf course, our community safety, value of homes, and security are jeopardized. We have community gates that are locked, why would we want to have people entering the community that may have potential accidents, increased traffic, and definitely potential for environmental pollution. Tunnels and fences would be aesthetically an eye-sore. I believe it will hurt the golfing membership because people will not want strangers and the accompanying noise and traffic near their homes and golfing experiences.

PLEASE consider our concerns and know that this is a huge breach of our gated community. It is very concerning to think of the criminal activity that could ensue from the amount of traffic coming **through** our area. I appreciate your efforts to listen to both sides, and hope you make the best decision for the numerous members of the Vines Community.

Honora Ostermann, 19455 Silver Oak Drive, Estero, Fla 33967

## Don Scott

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**From:** Kim Marvin <krmarv@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 11:23 PM  
**To:** jribble@estero-fl.gov; fiesel@estero-fl.gov; mclain@estero-fl.gov; errington@estero-fl.gov; Boesch@estero-fl.gov; Ward@estero-fl.gov; Wilson@estero-fl.gov; records@estero-fl.gov; sarkozy@estero-fl.gov; gary@esterolifemagazine.com; georgezalucki@outlook.com; Dist1, Kevin Ruane; Dist2, Cecil Pendergrass; Dist3, Ray Sandelli; Dist4, Brian Hamman; Dist5, Michael Greenwell; fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org; laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org; jgunter@capecoral.gov; dsheppard@capecoral.gov; jcosden@capecoral.gov; fburson@cityftmyers.com; twatkinsbrown@cityftmyers.com; jstreets@cityftmyers.com; dbonk@cityftmyers.com; raymurphy@fmbgov.com; atterholj@fmbgov.com; Scotty.Kelly@mysanibel.com; jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org; rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org; jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org; chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org; nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org; arleen.hunter@cityofbonitasprings.org; clerk@cityofbonitasprings.org; Communications@esterocc.com; gcarlisle@cityftmyers.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Counsel Member

As a resident of The Village of Estero I would like to express my support, with one caveat , for the proposed Rails to Trails project that is before you. It is my understanding the trail/bike path is projected to be 14 miles long from North Naples to Alico Road in Ft. Myers on the existing rail line. The last two miles bisect the gated community of The Vines and the Estero Country Club. For security, traffic safety and environmental concerns, I would ask you to consider either making the trail 12 miles long and ending at Estero Parkway or find an alternate route that could go around this parcel so not to adversely affect the property values within The Vines community and the experience of members at the Estero Country Club. I'm looking forward to having a beautiful linear park for all to enjoy, but please keep in mind having the trail go through a private gated community and golf course will negatively affect the quality of life for many families in the Estero Community.

Please vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,  
Kim Marvin  
17422 Newberry Lane  
Estero, FL 33928

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Bonnie K <bhk914@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 8:25 PM  
**To:** Dist3, Ray Sandelli  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rails to Trail

I am opposed to the model that trespasses gated communities. It present safety and privacy concerns. The model following roads is viable.

Bonnie Kirkham,  
Cascades at Estero

Sent from my iPad

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** julie <jamjulie2002@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 12:17 PM  
**To:** Jon McLain; Dist3, Ray Sandelli  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rail trail input to Estero Village

Sirs;

Here are just a few of the reasons why I oppose it and you should too.

- 1) Women all over the country , recently are being assaulted and raped on these trails. Consultants in favor sight outdated security reports dating back to 1996. 21 women were assaulted in Fairfax county. Just Google women assaulted on rail trails and you will be amazed by the large number of recent occurrences.
- 2) Lack of funds to provide adequate ongoing security. It WILL become a corridor for illegals, gangs and drug traffickers . Some reports show the majority users are grade school and high school age. The increase in litter burden has been horrendous. One woman in the Wgcu news report stated at her northern home, they have to call the police on a very frequent basis because people even camp on the trails! and there are always some type of disturbances. Homeless people can cause additional issues.  
The sherriff is already over burdened and under funded. People need to wake up about the security problems this will cause especially as our county faces increased crime issues in the future.
- 3) it will increase stormwater burdens on our already overburdened system. Additional hardscape causes more problems. The stormwater analysis of this project calls for permits to be approved. Will these be pushed thru despite all the critical water mgmt issues not addressed throughout the county
- 4) this is a multimillion dollar project and money can be better applied elsewhere in the village and county especially after the hurricane.
- 5) The railroad can never be used again, so future transportation needs may suffer. What happens to the chances of high speed rail or bus to ease our horrible traffic issues.
- 6) The railroad receives excessive funds for this project. It is a essentially a bail out program for them.
- 7) Across the country this program has robbed land owners and harmed privacy and security. There have been cases taken to the Supreme Court to stop them. Dissecting the Vines community is a horrible solution.
- 8) Adjacent homes will suffer greatly from noise, security and privacy issues. Most all the communities and people on favor, Do Not live adjacent to the proposed trail.
- 9) There are plenty of parks and trails and bike paths already not in peak use. We do not need this overspent monument to legacy. Fix our problems, dont make more.

Sincerely,

Julie Melchior  
9343 Sun River Way ,Estero, Fl  
239-498-5575

January 31, 2023

Dear Counsel Members and MPO Members:

As a member of Estero Country Club, I would like to express my support for the majority of the proposed Rails to Trails project that is before you. It is my understanding the trail/bike path is projected to be 14 miles long from North Naples to Alico Road in Ft. Myers on the existing rail line. The last two miles bisect the gated community of The Vines and the Estero Country Club.

For security, traffic safety and environmental concerns, I would ask you to consider either making the trail 12 miles long and ending at Estero Parkway or find an alternate route that could go around the Vines instead of through our secure, gated golf community. Otherwise, your route will adversely affect the property values within The Vines community and diminish the value of an Estero Country Club membership. That is, your proposed Trail through the Vines and Estero Country Club will directly cause the members and owners to suffer a great financial loss.

I'm looking forward to having a beautiful linear park for all to enjoy, but please keep in mind having the trail go through a private gated community and golf course will negatively affect the quality of life for many families in the Estero Community. In addition, as a result of the Trail going through the golf course, you will be putting the Trail users in harm's way from errant golf shots.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that you vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,

Mark Bonner  
25362 Galashields Circle  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

January 31, 2023

Dear Counsel Members and MPO Members:

As a member of Estero Country Club, I would like to express my support for the majority of the proposed Rails to Trails project that is before you. It is my understanding the trail/bike path is projected to be 14 miles long from North Naples to Alico Road in Ft. Myers on the existing rail line. The last two miles bisect the gated community of The Vines and the Estero Country Club.

For security, traffic safety and environmental concerns, I would ask you to consider either making the trail 12 miles long and ending at Estero Parkway or find an alternate route that could go around the Vines instead of through our secure, gated golf community. Otherwise, your route will adversely affect the property values within The Vines community and diminish the value of an Estero Country Club membership. That is, your proposed Trail through the Vines and Estero Country Club will directly cause the members and owners to suffer a great financial loss.

I'm looking forward to having a beautiful linear park for all to enjoy, but please keep in mind having the trail go through a private gated community and golf course will negatively affect the quality of life for many families in the Estero Community. In addition, as a result of the Trail going through the golf course, you will be putting the Trail users in harm's way from errant golf shots.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that you vote to exclude The Vines community and Estero Country Club from the trail and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Respectfully,

Deborah Bonner  
25362 Galashields Circle  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134



## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Denise Scheck <deeil10@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 19, 2023 10:58 PM  
**To:** info  
**Subject:** Rail to Trail

Hello,

I am a full time resident and homeowner in San Carlos Park. I am very concerned about the news I am hearing about converting the Seminole Railway into a public access park/bike trail. My backyard directly borders this location. I am concerned about the privacy, safety, and security issues this will cause for my family. I am also concerned about the negative impact this will have on the value of my property. I have already consulted with an attorney who specializes in this situation and was assured there would be a negative impact to property value. Please reconsider having this bike trail run through private backyards. The idea of that is unreasonable and not necessary. You can simply shorten the trail by a small fraction and keep the integrity of the many families of San Carlos Park. Please inform me of the plans for this trail as I am quite concerned. I love my home and cherish the quiet private sanctuary of my yard. Please don't take that away from me and all of my neighbors. Also please consider the wildlife that make this area their home. Reckless development has displaced so many innocent animals. Please leave them be! We have all suffered enough loss of trees and foliage due to the last two storms. The wooded sanctuary that borders the railway is dwindling. Please don't destroy what is left. I'm sure people can find a more suitable area to ride their bikes and not in our backyards.

Thank you

## Don Scott

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**From:** Denise Scheck <DEELIL10@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 10:25 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Re: Rail Trail Study Information

Thank you for forwarding that to me. I did find it a bit confusing with so many options. I however do not see any mention of consideration of this trail running through private yards. I see that as a huge issue especially in San Carlos Park. I also see no mention of the Park in any part of this report as if this neighborhood has not even been given any consideration. I have already met with an attorney who is an expert in rail conversion protects and he has assured me that my home value will suffer if the rail project goes through. How is that fair, to lower my home value so strangers can ride their bikes in my backyard? I also see no mention of the many wildlife that do make their homes in those woods behind our homes in the park. Reckless development has displaced so many innocent animals that are not unwelcome neighbors to us. This is a photo of my home and the proximity of the rail to my personal property. This project will only invite strangers into my private property and subject me to security issues at my home that currently do not exist. I think it is irresponsible to put such a large amount of funds into a project like this especially when so much of our community needs so much more in the recovery process from this latest storm. Perhaps riding bicycles should take a back seat to rebuilding our community. And please respect our privacy and our property in this small working class community. Please leave San Carlos Park alone.

10:24 ↗



## Don Scott

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**From:** Dawn Kennedy <bitsywuff@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2023 5:32 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Seminole Rail Trail

Dear Mr. Scott,

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alice Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.

2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was non functioning since 2008 and that our real estate would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/bike trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/bike trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Mike & Dawn Kennedy

Sent from my iPad

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** rpora <mreich2681@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 8:01 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trails project

Dear Mr Scott

I am emailing you as MPO Director for Lee County to air concerns my wife and I have regarding the development of a plan to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike and walking trail from Bonita through Estero up to Alico. We've been told the trail will be slated to travel directly through the middle of The Vines at Estero Country Club, which is a gated community, and San Carlos Park neighborhood following the path of the rail line.

My wife and I have been residents in The Vines for 7 years, first part time and now full time. We came to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle and the security a gated community provides. We think development of a walking/biking trail is a wonderful concept for the Lee County community at large but care has not been taken in the current planning to be protective of the abutting properties. In The Vines, there is uniform opinion among its taxpaying residents that this disruption of a gated community is not appropriate. We are told the concerns about the loss of security, the traffic issues and the overall change in the appearance/noise level have not been seriously considered. We feel property values in our community would decline and Estero would be sacrificing a valuable community enhancement.

Our hope is the bike trail project will be reconsidered in terms of cost/benefit or at least be developed with attention to the above concerns.

Thank you

Mark Reichard

## Don Scott

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**From:** John Towey <john@jtowey.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 1:23 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail

Dear Mr. Scott

I understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its *infancy and* is a wonderful idea, it fails to *take* into consideration how it would bisect my community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut my community completely in half as well as run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects my gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not disclosing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to my community would be devastating to the taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the railway and convert it to a walking/biking trail, and at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

I am asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community I live in and not to spend tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Towey  
19330 Northbridge Way  
Estero, FL 33967

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Karen Mossefin <kmossefin@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 3:14 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Please consider

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning, and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rd. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

The plan bisects a gated community- The Vines at Estero Country Club. We have lived in this community for many years and feel that if this trail is completed we will no longer have a safe community to live in. The original plans do not even show our community on the map.

Please also consider the San Carlos Park neighborhood- the trail would run through their backyards.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. Our objection is that our security, traffic issues and splitting our community literally in half have not been addressed.

In the wake of Ian's destruction, our tax dollars could certainly be better spent!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

William Hardyman  
Karen Mossefin

Sent from my iPad

**Don Scott**

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**From:** Shelly Lawrence <shelaw52@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:16 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trails

Dear Council Member,

I am a resident of The Vines Community/Member of Estero Country Club. Let me begin with my personal hope that the trail comes to fruition, along with hope that you will take a moment to continue reading this email.

I am writing to request that you consider voting for Alternative 3 of the MPO feasibility study. Alternative 1 and 2 literally bisects our community and poses many safety and security concerns:

The trail crosses over the **ONLY** road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes mean lives saved; delayed response time is the difference between life and death.

The trail is **STEPS** away from the hub of our community and divides both the golf course and neighborhood. The proposed Alternative 1 will enable **hundreds of thousands of people** access to our restaurants, bathrooms, water stations, golf course and parking lot and homes.

Alternative 1 and 2 also exposes our residents to increased public access to our homes, yards, and streets. My daily walks would no longer feel safe in my own neighborhood. Walking alone in the evening would stop for fear of not knowing who might have gone "off trail".

The sheer volume of people projected to use the trail is enough to disrupt our lifestyle at the Vines. The amount of people "passing through" our neighborhood will change our day to day routine. I personally cross over the proposed trail 6 or 7 times a day. Imagine having to wait for the walkers/riders each time.

My concerns are valid and very serious. Please vote to bypass the Vines and do the right thing for the people you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Shelly Lawrence  
8466-2 Southbridge Dr.  
The Vines  
Sent from my iPad



## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Cathy Bennett <cathymash@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:23 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** RAILS TO TRAILS PROJECT

March 1, 2023

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home hereto enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve & Cathy Bennett  
19291 Vintage Trace Circle  
Estero, FL 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** MARK & ILLONA MILLER <m.e.1534@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:18 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Seminole Rail Trail cutting through my gated community/neighborhood  
**Attachments:** Florida Rails to Trails.docx

Dear Mr. Scott,

Please see attached outlining concerns of this proposed project.

A couple addition questions I would have for you and those proposing this:

Has there been any other of these trails in Florida that cut directly through a GATED COMMUNITY? If yes, where?

How would you feel living in a GATED COMMUNITY and finding out a project like this was being planned?

Have you personally (and others on the project) visited The Vines to see how this project would bisect the community? If so, when?

There are alternatives that wouldn't impose upon a GATED COMMUNITY and I/we hope one of those alternatives are chosen instead.

Sincerely,

Eric Miller

Date: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a **GATED COMMUNITY**. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected. I **SPECIFICALLY** purchased at Estero Country Club to be in a **GATED COMMUNITY** (coming from Chicago).
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Miller

19761 Vintage Trace Circle

Estero, Florida 33967

Date: March 1, 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director

Dear Mr. Scott:

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

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We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave and Darlene Dongvillo

Grand Palm Village at the Vines

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Carol Schaffer <jcschaff2@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:34 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Security, Home Value and Environmental Concerns

**Date:** March 2023  
**To:** Don Scott, MPO Director, by email

Dear Mr. Scott,

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
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We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We were desperate to purchase a home after Hurricane Ian devastated our condo in Bonita Springs and felt so lucky to have found our Vines home. Little did we know we would have to contend with this issue. We are asking you to avoid bisecting our community to the end of avoiding multiple problems because of it.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
John and Carol Schaffer  
19729 Vintage Trace Circle  
Estero FL 33967

Sent from my iPhone

Date: March 2, 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: dscott@leempo.com

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*William A. Jardine*

Name/Address]

WILLIAM A. JARDINE  
8391 GRAND PALM DR APT 9  
ESTERO, FLORIDA 33967

**Don Scott**

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**From:** Elaine Swonk <swonks@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 2:07 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trails

**Date:** March 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: dscott@leempo.com

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

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2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elaine Swonk

19179 Vintage Trace Circle

Easter, Fl 33967

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Connie Moock <moock.connie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 4:33 AM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Proposed Bike trail

Date: March 2, 2023

Dear Don Scott,

This email is to make you aware of a situation that has been proposed in your district and to urge you to vote against funding the Sun Trail bill as presented now and, if approved, to allow those funds to be used for all bike trails, not just for railroad improvements.

There is a proposed bill to fund up to \$100 million Sun Trail funds for the improvement of railroads into linear parks including bike paths. With the devastation of Hurricane Ian still upon us, we should not be committing that money to such railroad improvements. In addition, if approved, those funds should not be limited in use for railroad property improvements, but for any and all bike and pedestrian path improvements.

Lee County is working on a plan to purchase the local "abandoned" Seminole Railway starting in North Naples and running through Bonita Springs, Estero, San Carlos Park and ending at Alico Rd. Once purchased, the bigger plan is to convert the existing "rail" to a bike/walking path.

One stretch of the existing rail bisects a gated community (Estero Country Club at the Vines) and will run right through the backyards of the San

Carlos Park homes. This would negatively impact the community in several ways:

1. Safety of existing homeowners within these communities
2. Those using the trail would have easy access to the county club facilities (bathrooms, clubhouse, etc.)
3. The Vines has only one access for emergency vehicles, who will need to stop at the intersecting road/rail prior to advancing, negatively affecting arrival time at the scene of the emergency. There are many times where seconds are critical to the outcome of the emergency.

We are generally in favor of the rail conversion to a bike/walking path south of Estero Parkway, but we are confident that a better mutual solution could be engineered so that our intimate, united, community of which 440 families call home, and the homes in San Carlos Park, can continue to experience the safety and security that they have had until now.

We are all taxpayers and deserve the same consideration as a gated community that is large and has many more members.

Our voice is one of reasoning and one that we would hope our government officials will support the residents of the Vines in an effort to save our gated

community and safe lifestyle.

Sincerely,  
Connie Moock  
21663 Bella Terra Blvd  
Estero, FL 33928



## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Janet Pitt <smlevecque@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 10:19 AM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trails

Date: March 2, 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Levecque  
8201 Grand Palm Drive #1,  
The Vines. Estero

**Don Scott**

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**From:** Julie Johnson <julieannjohn88@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:50 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to trails

Date: March 2, 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: [dscott@leemppo.com](mailto:dscott@leemppo.com)

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Julie Johnson  
8609 Fairway Bend Drive  
Estero, FL 33967

## Don Scott

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**From:** Helen Wolfe <hwolfe3710@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 11:21 AM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Seminole Rails to Trails

March 2, 2023

Mr. Scott,

I have been told your office is responsible for researching the Seminole Rail Trail project, and I'm sure you have been bombarded with many letters for and against it.

I have been a resident of the Vines Country Club since 1998. My husband and I purchased our home thinking someday this would be our retirement home. Sadly, he passed in 2008. I have continued to enjoy my seasonal time here. It is a place where I feel comfortable and safe. I have great concerns about this project bisecting my gated community and what it means for my future, my home, and the security of my neighborhood.

Back home in Indiana, I am a long-time recognized realtor serving my clients for 40 years. Based on my experience as a realtor and land developer in Indiana, I fear this project will hinder the value of our homes at the Vines as well as discourage future potential residents from buying. It is a big negative. We are the only community the trail will bisect.

The trail crosses over the ONLY road that leads to two-thirds of the Vines's homes which means emergency vehicles would be delayed in reaching our residents in need. As you know, minutes save lives; delayed response time is the difference between life and death. Many of our population are above 50 to well into retirement age. The trail divides both the golf course and neighborhoods. Try to imagine this trail running straight through your neighborhood/backyard for potentially 600,000 people walking/riding/biking down your street every single day.

Please know that I am not in opposition to the TRAIL itself, just the fact that it will run right through my community. I do fear some areas of the trail could be hazardous not only to the patrons using the trail when crossing Estero Pkwy, but to the many residents entering/exiting the Vines daily.

I am asking if you will share this letter with members of the research and planning committees in order to address the issues that would negatively affect the community I live in and not spend our tax dollars to buy the railway. There are many other places our tax dollars could benefit Lee County, especially after hurricane Ian with all the devastation the state of FL has incurred. These are the people and businesses that need help to rebuild Lee County.

Your attention in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Helen Wolfe

8461-4 Southbridge Dr.

Estero, FL 33967

317-414-4316

Date: March 3, 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: dscott@leempo.com

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Sotebeer

19049 Vintage Trace Cir

Estero, Fl. 33967

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Nick Ferris <nferris15@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 10:49 AM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails To Trails

March 03 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: [dscott@leemppo.com](mailto:dscott@leemppo.com)

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nickolas J Ferris

19699 Estero Pointe Lane

Fort Myers FL 33908

## Don Scott

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**From:** Tom Rubbelke <rubbelke@csp.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 11:13 AM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trail

Dear Mr. Scott

My name is Tom Rubbelke. We've met a couple times when I have spoken on behalf of The Vines Community at the Council meetings for Estero and Bonita Springs. For nearly a year we have tried to explain how this trail will negatively affect our community. So far, it seems it has fallen on deaf ears, and we have gotten nowhere with our efforts.

I know this letter will not tell you anything you don't already know. You know how we are in favor of the trail, and you also know we are vehemently opposed to it coming through the middle of our GATED, SECURE community.

As I've said many times, we are in favor of the trail. Many of our community members are also members of Friends of BERT.

And speaking of Friends of BERT, I have a lot of respect for what they have accomplished recently. They are working hard to see this trail come to fruition.

But I am willing to bet that, other than those members of Friends of BERT who reside in our community, The Vines, there are NO other members from a gated community who would favor this trail if it was coming through their community. Friends of BERT also have a number of HOA communities who are supporting their efforts, none of which are gated communities that will be affected by this trail. It's very easy to find support from people that will not be affected by the trail.

The Vines is the ONLY GATED COMMUNITY that will be affected by this.

If you would, please visualize 1,000 or more people per day walking, biking, jogging, pushing strollers, etc. down a path 50-100 yards from your door. The whole time littering with anything from wrappers to bottles to whatever they need to dispose of.

I know we have talked about "what if" the trail was to come through. How would it cross our busy road, or golf cart path, and so on. I am not even in favor of that. I think it is the most ridiculous idea ever, for someone to think they can just upset a community like that. How can anyone think that it is a good idea to bisect/disrupt a community that has been here for more than 30 years.

Again, we are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Rubbelke

651-328-3322

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Hallie Schneeweiss <hfschneeweiss@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 12:03 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rail to Trail Issues for the Vines

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hallie Schneeweiss

19721 Vintage Trace Ci.

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** M. RONALD GAHAN <windtreec@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 2:19 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trails impact to The Vines (ECC) community

Mr. Don Scott, I have never heard of a planned project that would go through a golf and housing community of 430 doorways, in the entire United States, that was for a walking and biking trail.

Who is going to pay the Railroad (CTX), pull up railroad tracks and smooth out the railway right of way, and get approval for a cross over bridge over roadways?

Who is going to provide to provide walls on either sides of the walk trail for the property owners of houses and condo door ways, to keep trespassing off private property lines and the golf course, which is private and member owned.

I have no trouble with a biking and hiking trail that goes from point A to B, that does not impact private property rights, road ways and splitting an HOA.

You and I know that railroad right of ways were introduced in the USA in the early 1800s, and were done prior to many states being born, and the governing bodies determining domain and boundaries of law decrees. (The robber barons at work)

I would stop this plan now by telling those who want it that NO Federal, State, Village monies are forthcoming and the entire debt is theirs.

Yours truly,  
Ron Gahan  
19313 Silver Oak Dr.  
The Vines  
Estero ,Fl.



## Don Scott

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**From:** Mary Beal <marybjimb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 5:08 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trails

Dear Mr. Scott:

It is my understanding that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed Rails to Trails project which would convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike and walking trail...from Bonita to Estero to Alico Rail Trail. I request that you share this letter with the members of your MPO.

I suppose the plan *appears* to be a great idea for some (still in its infancy stage), but it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect my community....The Vines at the Estero Country Club....of which we have been a full time resident of since 2004. There have been many changes in this area since 2004, but this one certainly can have some serious side effects! The proposal would cut our community completely in half plus it would run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood which has many, many young families.

1. As stated, the plan bisects a gated community! The original plans DO NOT show that a gated community exists on the map which was presented to the public for comment...leaving the objections and support suspect as to not noticing the public/residents most affected.

2. It was our understanding that the railway was non-fuctioning as of 2008...and that our real estate home purchase investment we in a gated golf community would be safe. We were somewhat shocked to learn that our local government is pushing forward and, may indeed, vote to buy the rail and convert it into a walking and biking trail...and are not listening to our concerns for our real estate investments nor for our safety.

Many residents of Lee County would probably enjoy the offerings of a linear park...and please know that we understand the Rails to Trails initiative. However, our objection is that none of our SECURITY, POTENTIAL TRAFFIC ISSUES and SPLITTING OUR COMMUNITY VIRTUALLY AND LITERALLY IN HALF have been addressed. Consideration must also be made for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park. This can be avoided with an alternate route.

MPO please place your undivided attention on the issues that would negatively affect the community I live in. Please do not spend our tax dollars now to purchase the rail and convert it into a walking and biking trail.

Your time and consideration are most generously appreciated. Thank you.  
Mary and Jim Beal

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** John Feraco <feracojohn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:18 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trails Project - Comment Letter

Dear Mr. Scott

I understand that your office is responsible for the research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita Springs/Estero to the Alico Rail Trail. Please review this comment letter and share it with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as stated, bisects a gated community. It is disappointing that the original plans did not show our gated community on the map that was presented to the public for comment. It is difficult to understand how the public is supposed to fairly evaluate the impact of the proposal if the most impacted community is not clearly shown on the plan.
2. This disruption to our gated community could negatively impact those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home in The Vines / Estero Country Club to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. When we purchased our home, we understood that the railway had been non functioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is apparently now pushing ahead with this project and may actually vote to buy the rail and convert it into a walking/biking trail without addressing the concerns of the residents in The Vines and in San Carlos Park.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that our security concerns, potential traffic issues and the literal splitting in half of our community have NOT been addressed. Our concerns and the concerns of the homeowners in San Carlos Park, can be addressed by choosing an alternate route for the Rails to Trails project.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and to HALT the imminent plan to spend tax dollars to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Feraco

19107 Vintage Trace Circle

Estero, FL 33967

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Lisa Feraco <lisaferaco@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 10:00 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trails Project - Comment Letter

Dear Mr. Scott

I understand that your office is responsible for the research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita Springs/Estero to the Alico Rail Trail. Please review this comment letter and share it with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as stated, bisects a gated community. It is disappointing that the original plans did not show our gated community on the map that was presented to the public for comment. It is difficult to understand how the public is supposed to fairly evaluate the impact of the proposal if the most impacted community is not clearly shown on the plan.
2. This disruption to our gated community could negatively impact those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home in The Vines / Estero Country Club to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. When we purchased our home, we understood that the railway had been non functioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is apparently now pushing ahead with this project and may actually vote to buy the rail and convert it into a walking/biking trail without addressing the concerns of the residents in The Vines and in San Carlos Park.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that our security concerns, potential traffic issues and the literal splitting in half of our community have NOT been addressed. Our concerns and the concerns of the homeowners in San Carlos Park, can be addressed by choosing an alternate route for the Rails to Trails project.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and to HALT the imminent plan to spend tax dollars to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Feraco

19107 Vintage Trace Circle

Estero, FL 33967

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** jjechko@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2023 3:55 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** For MPO - Concerned Resident Of The Vines Community Regarding Proposed Bike and Walking Path Through Our Community

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Echko

8441 Southbridge Dr.

Unit 4

Estero, FL 33967

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Linda & Art Bowen <linartrox@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2023 1:23 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Opposition to Bonita/Estero Rail Trail Bisecting the Vines

Date: March 06, 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: dscott@leempo.com

Dear Mr. Scott:

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. The same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Linda Nowacki-Bowen  
19574 Lost Creek Drive  
Estero, FL 33967

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Linda Bowen <linartrox@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2023 1:28 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Opposition to Bonita Estero Rail Trail Conversion Bisecting The Vines

Date: March 06, 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: [dscott@leemppo.com](mailto:dscott@leemppo.com)

Dear Mr. Scott:

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was non functioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. The same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arthur Bowen

19574 Lost Creek Drive

Estero, FL 33967

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** gibby1234@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2023 7:41 AM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** rail to trail estero

Dear Mr. Scott,

3/6/23

I understand your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed Seminole Rail Trail project. Please share this letter with the members of your MPO committee.

First let me state that I am in favor of bike and walking paths in the Estero area. Safety and healthy lifestyles is very important to all of us who love the outdoors, that is why many of us have relocated to this beautiful area.

The plan as it is currently stated bisects my beautiful neighborhood. As a cyclist it would put folks using the trail in danger with several crossings for golfcarts as our course boarders both sides of the trail, our main road - which is used by all residents, emergency vehicles, landscapers and delivery vehicles. This is a definite hazard which must be considered. These vehicles have never had to worry about folks darting out on bicycles to cross our road. If someone is hit by a car, truck or golfcart who is responsible? What happens with insurance? Insurance is a current problem within the state since the hurricane many companies are going out of business- who will insure us?

This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who purchased their home in here thinking our investment would be safe. We purchased in 2004 and absolutely love our neighborhood. The rail line has been dormant since 2008 and never thought the local government would turn a deaf ear to our concerns.

No economic gains will be developed on the extension of the trail from Estero Parkway north to Alico. This area has multiple established neighborhoods including San Carlos and The Vines and beyond that it is commercial businesses. No one will open any restaurants, shops or cafe's for cyclists to support in the section of the trail so that argument is null and void.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We totally understand many residents of Lee County would enjoy this linear park. Our objection is that none of the security, potential traffic issues and the splitting of our community in half have been addressed. Also there needs to be a trailhead for parking- where would people who drive down with their bikes park?

The residents of San Carlos Park have the same concerns we do as far as safety and intrusion to their homes. They can also not be ignored.

We are asking for the MPO to address these issues that would negatively impact the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now especially in a time of recession to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/bike path.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,  
Joe and JoAnn Schoellkopf

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Don Greenglass <dongreenglass@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2023 3:13 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trails

**Date:** March 4, 2023

**To:** Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: [dscott@leempo.com](mailto:dscott@leempo.com)

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Additionally, I believe it would cause a very real public and private nuisance that would be catastrophic for our communities. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, and others which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Greenglass  
19531 Lost Creek Drive  
Estero, FL 33967



## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Don Greenglass <dongreenglass@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2023 4:17 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Wednesday's meeting presentation and added pages

Don,

This afternoon I downloaded the Full Packet for Wednesday's meeting. I must say that I was shocked to see the addition of 2 pages (pages 29 and 30) in the presentation pertaining to how one public golf course in Washington State "secured" a Rail Trail that goes through their course. I do not recall ever seeing these pages in earlier copies of the MPO feasibility study nor do I believe that anyone from The Vines was ever made aware of this inadequate "solution".

Frankly I can not imagine where this came from and who could begin to think that this represents an apple to apples comparison to our situation. The Mount SI Golf Course is a public course with no homes on it. The Vines is a private course and club with approximately 435 private homes. The Mount SI Golf Course does not have a road that traverses the Rail Trail. The Vines has Vintage Trace, which is the sole access point for more than half of the residences in our community. And that is only the beginning of the differences between the two examples.....

A linear park has absolutely no place in our gated community. Should this plan proceed with either Option 1 or Option 2 (both bisecting The Vines community) a very real danger exists that both public and private nuisances will become a reality and serious consequences may result. 100% of our residents are opposed to these options, even though we do support a Rail Trail being established in appropriate areas, definitely not through The Vines. And I can tell you that many in San Carlos, Granda Lakes and other affected communities feel exactly as I do. I strongly suspect that those that "support" option 1 or 2 do not live adjacent to the proposed path, nor perhaps even close to it. Certainly the HOA's touted as supporting the BERT are not even close to abutting the proposed project. It all sounds lovely, until real nuisances arise and people's lives become greatly affected. And then to see this rather attempt to inadequately placate some residents is simply appalling!

Don, I ask you to do the right thing and stop this park from ever being built as proposed by Option 1 or 2. Please come and visit our community and speak to us. Do the same with the communities of San Carlos and Granada Lakes. When you see and hear first hand the realities, I am certain you will understand our great concern. And I also ask that this email and it's content be shared with all members of the Executive Committee as well as all other members of the MPO.

Sincerely,

Don Greenglass  
19531 Lost Creek Drive  
Estero, FL. 33967

## Don Scott

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**From:** Bruce Ackerman <backerman@pashmanstein.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2023 4:46 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** MPO Executive Committee Meeting

Dear Mr. Scott,

Please include this email comment in your information package to the members of the Executive Committee of the MPO for this week's meeting.

In reviewing the latest information for your meeting later this week, it appears that your planner has now added what is described as Snoqualmie gates for the golf cart crossings at the Vines in Estero. Now, after totally omitting the Vines and Estero Country Club from the planning map, they are making a futile effort to convince the MPO that a public golf course in the State of Washington has a relation to having a bike path running through a secure, gated golf course community in Lee County, Florida.

Those new gates and fencing only highlight further the inappropriateness of having a bike path come through the middle of this golf course. Not only would these gates as depicted create havoc in the use of the golf course, but whenever they open up the gates it would allow migration of bikers and walkers into our otherwise secure, guarded community.

Again, I stress that we asked Ned Baier if there was another gated golf course community in the USA that has a bike path bisecting it. While he promised they were researching it, the only one he has found to date is this public course in Snoqualmie Washington which has no houses along the course or the path. Still, Volker has presented not one gated golf course community with such a path and certainly not one path through a gated golf course community in the State of Florida.

Separate and apart from the negative impacts upon the Vines and Estero Country Club, the report as presented totally ignores the intrusions in the backyards of the adjacent San Carlos Park neighborhood and the otherwise isolated community at Granada Lakes near Alico Blvd. The bike path as proposed would run right through the backyards of private homeowners in San Carlos Park and would destroy the views and privacy of the homes in Granada Lakes while also allowing invasion of their clubhouse and bathroom facilities. Neither of these communities and the negative effects upon them are addressed in the planning report that is being shoved through for approval at the MPO.

Moreover, since the planner's maps did not show the Vines on the map, and certainly no one at Granada Lakes is indicated, none of these adjacent communities were aware of this bike path until just recently. It is these most directly affected communities whose opinions should be the most sensitively considered. It is their lives and quality of lives, as well as the enjoyment of the homes they purchased that are being detrimented.

There are viable alternatives to coming through the Vines, San Carlos Park, and Granada Lakes, and that alternate path can be made safe for all bikers to use. The MPO should be considering how to make the path work for everyone, but especially to those whom are most negatively affected by this proposed plan.

**Best Regards,**  
**Bruce Ackerman**  
Partner  
Pashman Stein Walder Hayden, P.C.

201.270.4933 Direct  
[backerman@pashmanstein.com](mailto:backerman@pashmanstein.com)

Court Plaza South, 21 Main Street, Suite 200, Hackensack, NJ 07601  
201.488.8200 | 201.488.5556 Fax | [pashmanstein.com](http://pashmanstein.com)

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** JOAN OSULLIVAN <josullivan340@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 7, 2023 12:57 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trails Initiative

Dear Mr. Scott:

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe.. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half has been addressed. And the same goes for intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John & Joan O'Sullivan (full time residents)  
19484 Silver Oak Drive  
Estero, Florida 33967

Date: March 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: dscott@leempo.com

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO. ,

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. Alternatives have been presented that would go around our community and we would like these to be considered vs bisecting our community. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Adair

19001 Vintage Trace Circle

Estero, FL 33967

Date: March 8, 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: dscott@leempo.com

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

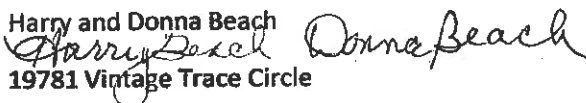
We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Harry and Donna Beach  
19781 Vintage Trace Circle



Estero, Florida 33967

## Don Scott

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**From:** Jean Rees <jeanrees@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:55 AM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trails

Date: March 9 2023  
To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: dscott@leempo.com

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO. Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

- The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
- This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Jean Rees**

19733 Vintage Trace Circle  
Estero, FL 33967

Date: March 9, 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: dscott@leempo.com

Dear Mr. Scott:

I understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.
3. If someone on the trails is hit by an errant golf ball, who would be held responsible?
4. This course has been here for many years with no people on the tracks, and only an occasional night train. Now you are planning on taking away our gated community, probable devaluation of our neighborhood and homes as a gated community, taking away or at least reducing valuable tax base and spending money in a frivolous fashion when our Estero Community has so many needs after the devastation of IAN.
5. Couldn't this community spend our tax dollars in a better way?

I am not against the Rails to Trail initiative. I am sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. My objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route. An alternate route, using the Three Oaks and Estero Boulevard intersection to cross the road would be much safer. Also, wouldn't Gulf Coast University students have safe and convenient access. Wouldn't the addition of a trail along Three Oaks, which is such a nice corridor be a draw and much safer for the students? I'm sure the shops and restaurants would also benefit. Although I am sure there is some cost to widening the sidewalks there, the cost of buying the property and converting the trails is huge. Certainly **TWO Estero** neighborhoods would not be adversely affected.

I am asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail. Spend our tax dollars on rebuilding our community from IAN. So much has been destroyed that has cost jobs and homes for people that live here. Rebuild first.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Legeay Grieshop

19479 Silver Oak Drive

Estero, FL 33967



## Don Scott

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**From:** Debbie Beulke <beulke2017@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 12, 2023 9:46 AM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Seminole Rail Trail

Date: March 12, 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: [dscott@leemco.com](mailto:dscott@leemco.com)

Re: Rail Trail Safety, Security, Home Value and Environmental Concerns

Dear Mr. Scott,

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community —The Vines at Estero Country Club. As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects our gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gordy and Debbie Beulke

8450 Southbridge Drive

Estero, FL 33967

Estero Country Club—The Vines Community

Date: March 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: dscott@leempo.com

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name/Address]

Christine Philomena Wiles  
8527 Fairway Bend Dr  
Estero, FL 33967.

Date: March 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director, by email to: dscott@leempo.com

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

. We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name/Address]

George C. Wilcox  
8527 Fairway Bend dr  
Estero, FL  
33967

Date: March 12, 2023

Sent via email: Don Scott, MPO Director, at [dscott@leempo.com](mailto:dscott@leempo.com)

Dear Mr. Scott:

We are residents of The Vines at Estero Country Club. We are advised your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, running from North Naples through Bonita Springs, Estero and San Carlos Park to the Alico Rail Trail.

We have attended several public hearings on the Rails to Trails project, held in Estero and Bonita Springs. We have heard the glowing testimonials from those in favor of the project, but no one – planner, biker or politician – has focused much on our many, significant comments, questions and concerns about how the project will negatively affect the security, safety, home values and lifestyle of Vines residents. Instead, we are told the plan is still in its infancy and the current focus is on finding sufficient funding for the rail line acquisition. Comments opposing the plan seem to be facily tabled by verbal assurances promising our concerns are best handled in the design and construction phases after rail acquisition is over. For us, that logic is flawed and puts the proverbial cart before the horse. Once the “funding cart” is full and starts to move, the “Vines horse” will likely be run over. Some of our primary concerns for what the current Rails to Trails project will create for the Vines community are summarized as follows:

1. The safety of Vines homeowners and protection of their property. The present trail plan will bisect our gated-community. The original plan map, that was presented to the public for comment, did not even show our gated-community exists. That alone calls into question (a) the depth of the MPO’s research and investigation regarding the plan; and, (b) the adequacy of notice to the sector of the taxpaying public likely to be most detrimentally affected by the plan. Bike trails may be fun for all during the day. However, those using the trail as intended during the day will still have easy, but unauthorized, access to the Estero Country Club facilities (golf course, bathrooms, clubhouse, ponds, etc.) and the Vines community in general. Does it fall to ECC members and Vines residents, with hopefully the help of local law enforcement, to address such trespassing activities?

Most important, what happens at night, say 2 AM? In darkness, the bike trail becomes an open, but sheltered, pathway into the heart of the Vines community. If intruders come having mischievous, or worse yet, criminal intentions, how are Vines residents to protect themselves and their property? Who will keep those miscreants with ATVs, motor cycles/bikes, and other vehicles from vandalizing our golf course and its related amenities? Who pays for the damage done, once the perpetrators escape undetected down the trail to find other things to destroy. Our gatehouse and night guard will have no preventative effect on such nefarious activities. Who pays for the security lights and cameras that may be necessary to provide some help to deter these night-stalkers or to assist the police in identifying the perpetrators?

2. The Trail’s disruption to the Vines gated-community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy homes here to enjoy the SWFL lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway was nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. So, it was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead, on the MPO’s

recommendation, to buy the rail line and convert it to a walking/biking trail. While at the same time, it feels that these same authorities are turning a deaf ear to our concerns. We believe it is likely, with the trail bisecting our community, property values in the Vines will decline relative to other SWFL gated-neighborhoods that do not have running through them such an open invitation to circumvent their security and safety measures. It is also not much of a stretch to expect Lee County may experience an increase in the number of real estate assessment and property tax litigation matters coming from Vines residents.

3. The Vines has only one perimeter road, Vintage Trace, by which vehicular traffic can access all subdivisions of the gated-community. It is an inviting, live-oak and palm lined, private road. About two-thirds of the 440 homes in the Vines lie East of where the proposed rails to trails pathway will cross over this road. Even with proper signage and safety measures, the potential for serious injury from vehicle/bike collisions will be much increased. Finally, emergency vehicles will need to stop at the road/trail intersection prior to advancing to the homes beyond, and possibly negatively affecting the response time when seconds may count

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our concerns about security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community in half have been considered, much less addressed, at this point. And, we suspect the same goes for the potential intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park. All of which can be avoided by an alternate route or better-engineered, mutually-agreeable solutions.

The Vines residents and Estero Country Club members are united and committed; and, to ensure that our voices are heard regarding this matter, we have designated representatives that you have heard from already. Although our numbers may not be large when compared to those of the "biking lobby" and others in favor of this trail project, we believe our voice is one of reason and one we believe our government official should support. Those favoring the project are looking to enhance an already fantastic SWFL lifestyle, while we are simply asking that you help us preserve the same lifestyle we have enjoyed in the Vines for many years.

We are asking the MPO to address these serious issues that would negatively affect the Vines gated-community. Please do not recommend spending our tax dollars now to buy the rail line and convert it to a walking/biking trail, without first seriously assessing and addressing what that action will do to the Vines gated-community and Estero Country Club.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please share this letter with other members of the MPO.

Sincerely,  
s/ Howard & Doreen Tallman  
8440 Southbridge Drive, Unit 4  
Estero, FL 33967

Date: March 12, 2023

To: Don Scott, MPO Director

Dear Mr. Scott

We understand that your office is responsible for research, planning and execution of the proposed project to convert the Seminole Rail Trail into a bike/walking trail, from Bonita, Estero to Alico Rail Trail. Please share this comment letter with the members of your MPO.

Although the plan is in its infancy and is a wonderful idea, it fails to take into consideration how it would bisect our community (The Vines at Estero Country Club). As proposed, this Rail Trail would cut our community completely in half and run through the backyards of the San Carlos Park neighborhood.

1. The plan, as is stated, bisects a gated community. The original plans do not even show that a gated community exists on the map that was presented to the public for comment, leaving the objections and support suspect as not noticing the public most affected.
2. This disruption to our gated community would be devastating to those taxpayers who have chosen to buy their home here to enjoy the SW Florida lifestyle. Our understanding was that the railway had been nonfunctioning since 2008 and that our real estate investment would be safe. It was a complete surprise to hear that our local government is pushing ahead and may indeed vote to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail, at the same time, turning a deaf ear to our concerns.

We are not against the Rails to Trail initiative. We are sure many residents of Lee County would enjoy all that a linear park could offer. Our objection is that none of our security, potential traffic issues and splitting our community virtually and literally in half have been addressed. And the same goes for the intrusions to the homes in San Carlos Park, which can be avoided with an alternate route.

We are asking for the MPO to address the issues that would negatively affect the community we live in and not to spend our tax dollars now to buy the rail and convert it to a walking/biking trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Vint & Susan Buckwalter  
8540 Fairway Bend Drive  
Estero, FL 33967

## **Don Scott**

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**From:** Kathy Collins <vineskathy1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2023 9:36 PM  
**To:** Don Scott  
**Subject:** Rails to Trails

Dear Mr. Scott,

My husband and I have been residents of The Vines for 28 years. We love our small community and we love our surrounding communities of San Carlos Park and Estero. We are very concerned about the Rails to Trail plan to divide our community and disrupt the lives of those that live right beside the track in San Carlos Park.

The safety of all residents, users of the trail, visitors and commercial are of the utmost concern. We cannot even imagine what it will be like to cross the trail to enter or exit our community. It eliminates our freedom to come and go as a normal daily function. It will prohibit commercial and emergency vehicles to come and go in a business or expeditious manner.

We are pleading with you to vote for one of the other two options which do not traverse through our gated community or through San Carlos Park.

We are not adverse to a Rails to Trails project. We are from upstate NY and have enjoyed the benefits of a Rails to Trail. However, it did not divide any community and put safety at risk.

Besides our concern for safety, at this moment in time, when others in our area are truly suffering from the effects of Ian, we are asking that taxpayer money not be spent on something that doesn't benefit those most in need in our community. It is going to be a long road back for the beach and those that serve the tourists.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robert and Kathleen Collins  
8311-4 Grand Palm Drive  
Estero, FL 33967

