**Letter 1**

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,

Name

Address

**Letter 2**

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,

Name

Address

**Letter3**

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

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,

Name

Address