**Letter 1– For Don Scott, MPO**

**Please use this “as is” or as an outline for a “make it your own” email to the MPO, use all, part or change with your own comments. Feel free to use these points – Safety, Security, Home Value and Environmental Concerns**

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 devasting 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]