

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD : Entry # 38353

Comments must be received by noon one day before the actual meeting and they will be distributed to the Council/Board but will not be read at the meeting.

Choose The Meeting You Are Commenting On

Village Council Meeting

Name

Antonio Carangelo

Address

8540 Via Lungomare Circle #203
Estero 33928
United States
[Map It](#)

Community

Club Of Rapallo

Email

acarangelo334@msn.com

Phone

(781) 710-4889

Representing

ECCL Safety Connectivity Committee: Head of

Date

12/06/2022

Agenda Item No. or Topic

Workshop: Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Rail Trail Feasibility Study

Comments

Call to Action: Is it time to consider Greater Estero as a connected Village?
ECCL has a history of educating and advising the Village Council and the Community residents on matters where oversight and guidance are required.
Greater Estero is blossoming; controlled growth is complex. Since its inception in 2015, new developments are surfacing; activity around building new parks and upgrading existing ones is starting, plans are in place for sewer system installations and water drainage systems, and designs are moving forward. Hurricane Ian has been disruptive, resulting in prioritized reconstruction projects.
Any change to roadways may introduce new traffic patterns and increase the volume of vehicles on the roads. Likewise, pedestrian and bicycle movement throughout the Village will be impacted. Instead of viewing these changes to the Village as independent initiatives, we need to consider how these initiatives impact the connected Village.
With all the new investments in streets, venues, and local and state parks, the community must start thinking about complete

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD : Entry # 38353

streets and connected venues. Both our Village Comprehensive plans and the Master Bicycle/Pedestrian plans outline blueprints and roadmaps for an interconnected Village. We must consider how we use bicycle paths, walkways, and water routes to make these pathways available for all ages and abilities. This approach will benefit residents, their guests, and visitors to the Village by helping them get around without a vehicle.

The people of the Village have spoken today in this workshop. The MPO has presented its recommended alternatives based on its 18-month study. We strongly recommend the Village Council take the initiative, independent of outside influence, to address several major questions which will produce outcomes to move 'Rails to Trails' forward.

Question 1: Will the Village establish a small decision-making leadership team across the affected cities to meet with the Fay family to acquire the 14-mile property to continue the conversation with them to understand the opportunities and obstacles?

We need to know what the Fay family wants to do now with the 14 Miles Seminole Gulf Railway corridor after hurricane Ian. Alternatives 1 and 2 are going nowhere until we acquire and secure the rights to that land.

Question 2: Will the Village Council designate a project champion (point person) accountable for providing facts and recommendations to the Council?

The point person should be available to the public to respond to questions and seek public input on related issues, to move forward efficiently and effectively. The Village Comprehensive plan (2016) and the Master Ped/Bike Plan outline a long-term transportation vision and maybe a foundation for decision-making.

Our ASK: We respectfully ask the Village Council to designate a project champion (point person) accountable for providing facts and recommendations to the Council and available to the public to respond to questions and seek public input on related issues. We recommend that the point person should be charged with establishing a decision-making process, including public input, for MPO and Village, trail, and street projects.

Notes**Admin Notification (ID: 5e70ca9c71a8d)**

added 5 hours ago

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.

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Estero 33928
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Community

Club Of Rapallo

Email

acarangelo334@msn.com

Phone

(781) 710-4889

Representing

ECCL Safety Connectivity Committee: Head of

Date

12/06/2022

Agenda Item No. or Topic

Workshop: Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Rail Trail Feasibility Study

Comments

ECCL Safety Connectivity Committee recommends Alternative 1 and 2 to move forward in the study; Alternative 3 is the default if the Seminole Gulf Railway (SGLR) corridor cannot be acquired

The Safety and Connectivity committee is a subcommittee of the ECCL Safety Council. We represent users (citizens and visitors) of greater Estero during the design and development of multi-modal trail paths.

Our charter is focused on making a pleasurable experience by assisting in the designing of streets, pathways, and waterways for pedestrians, bicyclists, and kayakers of all ages and abilities. We review the details of all project initiatives in the CIP process and provide feedback to the public works officials on the viability of the options in the Conceptual Design stage of each street.

In June, we reviewed the Alternatives presented in the 18-month study and prepared a paper for the MPO. We provided feedback on the pros and cons of each alternative presented.

We recommended Alternative 2 because it provides more flexibility and could address longer-term uses of the Seminole Gulf Railway (SGLR) corridor. We support preserving the rail line while building a Bicycle/Pedestrian/Alternative multi-use vehicle

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pathway for recreation and commuting. This alternative creates a unique feature and reason to visit the Greater Estero Communities.

Alternative 1, which advocates for 'just trails,' is a solid starting point. Still, when we considered the long-term potential of providing alternative transportation modes over the next 20-30 years, like lightweight rail, we could not ignore the potential of Alternative 2, 'Trails with Rails.' Today we endorse Alternative 1 to start, but we want to keep the dialogue open for future use of a rail system 20- 30 years out.

Our ASK: We ask the Village Council to focus on Alternative 1 and 2 and continue study and collaboration with other communities to negotiate the acquisition of the 14 Miles Seminole Gulf Railway corridor. This approach will connect SWFL and our neighboring communities via a multi-model trail system, creating a community and a regional asset we all can enjoy.

Whatever direction the Village takes on the Alternatives, we understand and appreciate the need to address the concerns expressed by some gated communities as the initiative moves forward. The ECCL Safety and Connectivity committee wants to work with the Village on addressing the future of "Rails to Trails."

Notes**Admin Notification (ID: 5e70ca9c71a8d)**

added 5 hours ago

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PUBLIC COMMENT CARD : Entry # 38348

Comments must be received by noon one day before the actual meeting and they will be distributed to the Council/Board but will not be read at the meeting.

Choose The Meeting You Are Commenting On

Village Council Meeting

Name

Terry Koch

Address

14241 Moonlit Way
Estero 33928
United States
[Map It](#)

Community

Corkscrew Shores

Emailkoch999@gmail.com**Phone**

(216) 496-0502

Representing

Self

Date

12/05/2022

Agenda Item No. or Topic

MPO Rail Trail Feasibility Study

Comments

Dear Council Members,

Regarding the subject matter, I strongly support the two alternatives that use the rail corridor for the trail. The "Rail to Trail" or "Rail with Trail" alternatives are the only ones that would provide a safe, beautiful, peaceful, resident-friendly trail. It would be used by people of all ages and abilities, and it would become a wonderful asset to the area. I ask you to study how rail-trails have provided great benefits to numerous communities across the U.S, and I urge you to support the "Rail to Trail" or "Rail with Trail" alternative, and to actively partner with Lee County and the other communities in SW Florida to make this a reality. Please seize this great opportunity for Estero residents and SW Florida and support the rail trail!

Respectfully,

Terry Koch

Notes**Admin Notification (ID: 5e70ca9c71a8d)**

added 16 hours ago

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PUBLIC COMMENT CARD : Entry # 38346

Comments must be received by noon one day before the actual meeting and they will be distributed to the Council/Board but will not be read at the meeting.

Choose The Meeting You Are Commenting On

Village Council Meeting

Name

Ken Grogan

Address

9507 Lismore lane
Estero 33928
United States
[Map It](#)

Community

Cascades

Email

taztester@gmail.com

Phone

(410) 459-4542

Representing

Self

Date

12/05/2022

Agenda Item No. or Topic

Rails and trails

Comments

I am opposed to any rails and trails use of that r/w due to possibility of being used as a drug highway and not very accessible for LCSO patrols etc
Also we are having drainage issues in Cascades now without any more paved surface to add to add.
Opposed to Rails and Trails!

Notes

Admin Notification (ID: 5e70ca9c71a8d)

added 20 hours ago

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD : Entry # 38332

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Choose The Meeting You Are Commenting On

Village Council Meeting

Name

Scott Stryker

Address

20026 Larino Loop
Estero 33928
United States
[Map It](#)

Community

Bella Terra

Email

scottpstryker@gmail.com

Phone

(908) 872-4841

Representing

Self

Date

12/05/2022

Agenda Item No. or Topic

6. b. Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Rail Trail Feasibility Study

Comments

The rail to trail project between Alico and Bonita Bech road should be the #1 goal for the village of Estero. Number one. Not getting this rail converted to a trail would be irresponsible.

Notes

Admin Notification (ID: 5e70ca9c71a8d)

added 23 hours ago

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PUBLIC COMMENT CARD : Entry # 38321

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Choose The Meeting You Are Commenting On

Village Council Meeting

Name

Steve Gunther

Address

24825 Hollybrier Lane
Bonita Springs 34134
United States
[Map It](#)

Community

Pelican Landing

EmailStgunther@gmail.com**Phone**

(612) 859-3729

Representing

Myself and the Pelican Landing Cycling Club

Date

12/05/2022

Agenda Item No. or Topic

6B MPO Rail Trail Feasibility Study

Comments

I live in Pelican Landing, am a very avid bicyclist and recognize the many benefits that this paved trail has to offer to the village of Estero, its residents and its guests. From health improvements to social connection, from an alternate transportation pathway for workers to opportunities for new businesses, from safe cycling separated from cars to increased property values, these rails to trails projects have universal appeal. My experience in Minnesota (where Rails to Trails pathways are ubiquitous) tells me that this is an opportunity for Estero that you should support.

On the health and safety front, members of our cycling club will bike from Pelican Landing (part of which resides in Estero) along Coconut Road and head north to Alico Road and beyond. Two of our club were struck by a car that ran a stop sign as they pedaled south on Ben Hill Griffin. This accident caused serious injuries to both of them, nearly paralyzing one of them. In a separate incident, one of them died in a crash due to metal debris in the road. A third member was rear ended on her bike and spent 6 weeks in the hospital. Bicycling is a great, non weight bearing exercise that can improve our quality of life and our

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD : Entry # 38321

longevity. But, in Lee County, it is needlessly hazardous to our health. Providing a safe alternative for cyclists to get their exercise is absolutely needed. Converting the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast railway to a multi-use paved pathway will go a long way to help.

Please support the proposed "Rail to Trail" being considered for the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast railway bed.

Notes**Admin Notification (ID: 5e70ca9c71a8d)**

added December 5, 2022 at 12:08 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD : Entry # 38306

Comments must be received by noon one day before the actual meeting and they will be distributed to the Council/Board but will not be read at the meeting.

Choose The Meeting You Are Commenting On

Village Council Meeting

Name

CARMELO GUELI

Address

18270 ridgeline
Estero 33928
United States
[Map It](#)

Community

Verdana Village

Email

carmgueli@gmail.com

Phone

(905) 541-6771

Representing

Self

Date

12/05/2022

Agenda Item No. or Topic

Cycle rail trail

Comments

I've read the plan for this trail and think it's absolutely crucial to invest in this. Moved here from Naples where I took the trails and bike routes for granted without realizing Estero has nothing in place. Please expedite this development for the health and safety of the Estero residents now and coming.

Notes**Admin Notification (ID: 5e70ca9c71a8d)**

added December 5, 2022 at 7:12 am

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD : Entry # 38305

Comments must be received by noon one day before the actual meeting and they will be distributed to the Council/Board but will not be read at the meeting.

Choose The Meeting You Are Commenting On

Planning Zoning and Design Board Meeting

Name

Pat and Jeff Schmees

Address

21101
Bella Terra blvd
Estero 33928
United States
[Map It](#)

Community

Estero

Email

jpschmees@gmail.com

Phone

(513) 907-2276

Representing

Public

Date

12/04/2022

Agenda Item No. or Topic

Bike trail support

Comments

Active bikers in our Florida neighborhood and active bikers in ohio Little Miami (Loveland) bike trail length that is 50 plus miles. Concern would be bike trail crossing over major highways such as Estero Parkway, Corkscrew road for public safety. Bridges have been built on our busy ohio highways redirecting bike traffic for safety

Notes

Admin Notification (ID: 5e70ca9c71a8d)

added December 4, 2022 at 8:29 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD : Entry # 38303

Comments must be received by noon one day before the actual meeting and they will be distributed to the Council/Board but will not be read at the meeting.

Choose The Meeting You Are Commenting On

Village Council Meeting

Name

Julie Melchiorre

Address

9342 sun river way
Estero 33928
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[Map It](#)

Community

Cascades

Email

jamjulie2002@yahoo.com

Phone

(239) 405-0463

Representing

Self

Date

12/04/2022

Agenda Item No. or Topic

Rail trail feasibility

Comments

Strongly oppose the rail trail program for the following reasons:

- 1) 21 women have been assaulted on the Fairfax county rail trail. Additionally we can not even properly police our illustrious Estero Motor Speedway aka parkway where people drive 70mph. And I am supposed to believe that people will be safe.
- 2) it will become a crime corridor for illegal immigrants, gangs and drug cartels.
- 3) our already overburdened stormwater system, can not handle our current water stress, let alone additional hardscape runoff that would be created by this development. Stormwater management should be called mismanagement when it comes to Lee county and Estero village.
- 4) The railroad will benefit from my tax dollars when they least deserve it after their neglect all these years. Please stop wasting my tax dollars .

Notes**Admin Notification (ID: 5e70ca9c71a8d)**

added December 4, 2022 at 4:26 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD : Entry # 38297

Comments must be received by noon one day before the actual meeting and they will be distributed to the Council/Board but will not be read at the meeting.

Choose The Meeting You Are Commenting On

Village Council Meeting

Name

Ramona Novitski

Address

21101 Palese Dr
Estero 33928
United States
[Map It](#)

Community

Bella Terra

Email

ramn21101@gmail.com

Phone

(239) 250-9536

Representing

self

Date

12/07/2022

Agenda Item No. or Topic

6b

Comments

My husband & I support this effort and ask for Village Council support.

Notes**Admin Notification (ID: 5e70ca9c71a8d)**

added December 2, 2022 at 8:52 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD : Entry # 38296

Comments must be received by noon one day before the actual meeting and they will be distributed to the Council/Board but will not be read at the meeting.

Choose The Meeting You Are Commenting On

Village Council Meeting

Name

Mark Novitski

Address

21101 Palese Dr
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Community

Bella Terra

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marker21101@gmail.com

Phone

(239) 250-9536

Representing

self

Date

12/07/2022

Agenda Item No. or Topic

6B

Comments

I fully support the rail trail and the efforts of BERT to create this trail. Request the Village Council support this effort both with advocacy at the state, county, and local level and financial.

Thanks,

Mark

Notes

Admin Notification (ID: 5e70ca9c71a8d)

added December 2, 2022 at 8:49 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.

From: [Carol Sacco](#)
To: [Tammy Duran](#)
Subject: FW: Rails to Trails
Date: Monday, December 5, 2022 7:59:41 AM



Carol Sacco
Village Clerk/Executive Assistant to Village Manager
9401 Corkscrew Palms Circle
Estero, FL 33928
Office: (239) 221-5035
Direct: (239) 319-2840
www.estero-fl.gov

From: Joanne Ribble <jribble@estero-fl.gov>
Sent: Saturday, December 3, 2022 1:54 PM
To: John vanderMeer <execvptpc@yahoo.com>; Carol Sacco <sacco@estero-fl.gov>
Subject: Re: Rails to Trails

Thank you for your email John.
Joanne Ribble
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From: John vanderMeer <execvptpc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 3, 2022 12:32:55 PM
To: Joanne Ribble <jribble@estero-fl.gov>
Subject: Rails to Trails

[You don't often get email from execvptpc@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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My wife and I have the good fortune of enjoying our residence in Pelican Landing and being Florida residents during the winter and returning to her native Michigan (Grand Traverse County) in the Summer. GTC with a population of 100,000 residents frequently grows to more than 150,000 for a good part of the summer. One of the main draws is a trail network where walkers and bikers can enjoy nature without contesting with cars and trucks. The trail network grows most years and gives its users a safe place to connect throughout the county and is in the early stages of becoming connected throughout the region.

Traverse Area Regional Trails has a staff of about a dozen full time employees and more than 200 volunteers. It has not only grown the miles of trails but also has maintained a vision for further growth and a means of funding its vision through public and private sources. They truly have nurtured enthusiasm, culture and a commitment to the benefits of 12 months per year trail availability which is now part of the area's DNA.

Having seen what has been accomplished by this comparatively small population I would encourage and commend the council to endorse this early effort to a full scale trail system to our area and enjoy the recreational and health benefits that accrue to it.

John VanderMeer

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Carol Sacco](#)
To: [Tammy Duran](#)
Subject: FW: Please support the proposed "Rail to Trail" being considered for the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast railway bed
Date: Monday, December 5, 2022 8:00:03 AM



Carol Sacco
Village Clerk/Executive Assistant to Village Manager
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Direct: (239) 319-2840
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From: Joanne Ribble <jribble@estero-fl.gov>
Sent: Saturday, December 3, 2022 1:55 PM
To: Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>; Carol Sacco <sacco@estero-fl.gov>
Subject: Re: Please support the proposed "Rail to Trail" being considered for the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast railway bed

Thank you for your email Steve.
Joanne Ribble

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From: Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 3, 2022 1:47:04 PM
To: Joanne Ribble <jribble@estero-fl.gov>; Larry J Fiesel <fiesel@estero-fl.gov>; Jon McLain <mclain@estero-fl.gov>; Katy Errington <errington@estero-fl.gov>; Jim Boesch <boesch@estero-fl.gov>; Jim Ward <ward@estero-fl.gov>; Jim Wilson <wilson@estero-fl.gov>
Subject: Please support the proposed "Rail to Trail" being considered for the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast railway bed

Some people who received this message don't often get email from stgunther@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Greetings council members,

I'm aware of the feasibility study being performed by the Lee County Metropolitan Planning

Organization to convert the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast railway bed to a paved, multi-use trail. The MPO will be presenting at the December 7th village of Estero council meeting and I wanted to voice my support for this Rail to Trail idea.

I live in Pelican Landing, am a very avid bicyclist and recognize the many benefits that this paved trail has to offer to the village of Estero, its residents and its guests. From health improvements to social connection, from an alternate transportation pathway for workers to opportunities for new businesses, from safe cycling separated from cars to increased property values, these rails to trails projects have universal appeal. My experience in Minnesota (where Rails to Trails pathways are ubiquitous) tells me that this is an opportunity for Estero that you should support.

Please support the proposed "Rail to Trail" being considered for the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast railway bed.

Respectfully,

Steve Gunther

Pelican Landing resident

stgunther@gmail.com

612-859-3729

Citizen | Investor | Multisports Enthusiast

From: [Carol Sacco](#)
To: [Tammy Duran](#)
Subject: FW: Dec 7th Agenda Item 6B - MPO Rail Trail Feasibility Study
Date: Monday, December 5, 2022 8:03:47 AM



Carol Sacco
Village Clerk/Executive Assistant to Village Manager
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www.estero-fl.gov

From: Joanne Ribble <jribble@estero-fl.gov>
Sent: Sunday, December 4, 2022 12:22 PM
To: p1miller@aol.com; Carol Sacco <sacco@estero-fl.gov>
Subject: Re: Dec 7th Agenda Item 6B - MPO Rail Trail Feasibility Study

Thank you Patrick for your email.

Joanne Ribble

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From: p1miller@aol.com <p1miller@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 3, 2022 9:46:57 PM
To: p1miller@aol.com <p1miller@aol.com>
Subject: Dec 7th Agenda Item 6B - MPO Rail Trail Feasibility Study

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[NOTICE: This message originated outside of the Village of Estero -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

As a Bonita Springs resident and frequent biker in the Naples/Estero area I personally know multiple area riders who have had encounters with cars here in just the last year. Tragic. Please help protect the many bikers in your district by providing expanded & safer trailways!!

The Bonita Estero Rail Trail would be a WONDERFUL THING in any of its proposed options. Trails like this provide a SAFER trail/thruway for area bikers in a dense residential area.

I know NIMBY concerns oft arise in early bikeway planning. I've seen them delay (but not stop) trails in other areas. But experience across the USA shows that development of such pathways has ALWAYS resulted in enthusiastic use and RAISED property values for communities nearby. (I've personally seen this in OH, KY, & DE.) And these trails do NOT lead to increases in noise or crime!

Please DO NOT listen to the naysayers. FOLLOW the evidence of existing trails across the USA.
SUPPORT THE ESTERO-BONITA-RAIL-TRAIL!!

Thanks for your time.

-Patrick Miller

Pelican Landing, Bonita Springs