

3-23-24

TO VILLAGE/CITY COUNCIL, LEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dear Village, City Council Members and County Commissioners,

The ***Wildcat Run Homeowners Association*** Board of Directors, representing 450 homes in our community, discussed the proposed "Rail to Trail" project on the unused Seminole Gulf Coast Railway at a recent board meeting on 02/22/2024. Our conclusion was that we **SUPPORT** the proposal! We believe that our residents, current and future, will benefit from this project and see improvements in health and quality of life. We urge that the leaders of the Village of Estero, the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County work with our local, state and federal authorities to make this proposal a reality.

Thank you,



Jack Oliver

President, Board of Directors

Wildcat Run Homeowners Association

**Rail to Trail
Endorsement from Bella Terra**

Dear Village of Estero, City Council Members, Planning Boards and Lee County Commissioners,

The purpose of this letter is to show that the Bella Terra Board of Directors has discussed the proposed "Rail to Trail" project on the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast Railway at our most recent board meeting on 1/25/23. It is understood that Lee County is among the worst and most dangerous counties for cyclist in the United States. Our conclusion was that we **SUPPORT** *Alternative 1 and Alternative 2* of the proposal and voted to endorse this project!

We believe that our residents, current and future, will greatly benefit from this project and see improvements in health, quality of life and community connectedness. We urge the leaders of the Village of Estero, the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County work with our local, state and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality.

Sincerely,

The Bella Terra Board of Directors

President: K.J. Moses

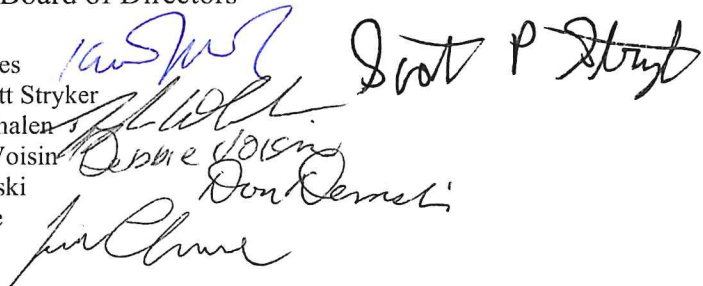
Vice President: Scott Stryker

Treasurer: Doug Whalen

Secretary: Debbie Voisin

Director: Don Demski

Director Jim Chasse

Handwritten signatures of the Bella Terra Board of Directors members. From top to bottom, the signatures correspond to: K.J. Moses (President), Scott Stryker (Vice President), Doug Whalen (Treasurer), Debbie Voisin (Secretary), Don Demski (Director), and Jim Chasse (Director). The signatures are written in blue and black ink.



Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Friends of Bert

1 message

Diana Steelsmith <dsteelsmith@kwpmc.com>

Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 12:42 PM

To: "mclain@estero-fl.gov" <mclain@estero-fl.gov>, "jribble@estero-fl.gov" <jribble@estero-fl.gov>, "fiesel@estero-fl.gov" <fiesel@estero-fl.gov>, "fayhee@estero-fl.gov" <fayhee@estero-fl.gov>, "lopez@estero-fl.gov" <lopez@estero-fl.gov>, "ward@estero-fl.gov" <ward@estero-fl.gov>, "zalucki@estero-fl.gov" <zalucki@estero-fl.gov>
Cc: "dist1@leegov.com" <dist1@leegov.com>, "dist2@leegov.com" <dist2@leegov.com>, "dist3@leegov.com" <dist3@leegov.com>, "dist4@leegov.com" <dist4@leegov.com>, "dist5@leegov.com" <dist5@leegov.com>, Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Dear Village, City Council Members and County Commissioners,

The Belle Lago *Homeowners* Association Board of Directors, representing 447 homes, discussed the proposed "Rail to Trail" project on the unused Seminole Gulf Coast Railway at our most recent board meeting on *March 24, 2025*. Our unanimous conclusion was that we **SUPPORT** the proposal! We believe that our residents, current and future, will greatly benefit from this project and see improvements in health, quality of life and property values. We urge that the leaders of the Village of Estero, the City of Bonita Springs and Lee and Collier County work with our local, state and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality.

Thank you,

Diana Steelsmith, LCAM

Property Manager

KW PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & CONSULTING, LLC
3365 Woods Edge Circle, Suite 102
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
Email: dsteelsmith@kwpmc.com

Image



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imgbb.com
image not found

On Sat, Mar 4, 2023 at 5:30 PM Al Molinaro <almolinaro1627@comcast.net> wrote:

Allow this email message to serve as the Bermuda Park Condominium Association's support of your efforts to get the Bonita Estero Rail Trail completed. Our board of directors has reached a consensus to notify you of our support. Kindly include our association to the list supporting your efforts.

Respectfully yours,

Al Molinaro



January 13, 2023

Honorable Rick Steinmeyer, Mayor
City Council members:
Honorable Jami Bogacz
Honorable Laura Carr
Honorable Jesse Purdon
Honorable Chris Corrie
Honorable Nigel Patrick Fullick
Honorable Fred Forbes

We are writing to urge you to support the Bonita-Estero Rail Trail proposal. This project will provide a safe and family friendly way for Bonita Springs residents to walk, run, and ride outside their own neighborhoods on a well-protected trail away from roadway traffic. The rail trail will also provide access to new areas of our community which will support local businesses.

Bicycle and pedestrian safety is an important amenity in promoting a healthy lifestyle in Bonita Bay where we have 12 miles of well used walking paths and hundreds of dedicated walkers, runners and bicyclists. We promote safety at every opportunity including bell giveaways for bicyclists and a video to show bikers and walkers how to safely share the paths.

The proposed Rail Trail will allow our residents and those throughout Bonita Springs to enjoy walking and riding outside of their local streets. Even better, the local trail will connect with the statewide trail system further expanding opportunities for families to explore and shop beyond the local community.

We hope you will agree and give this proposed project your full support.

**BONITA BAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Larry Kellam, President
Rod McKenzie, Vice President
Sandra Hollenhorst, Treasurer
Brian Garofalo, Secretary
Susan Hager, Director and Government Affairs Committee Chairman
Judy DeLuca-Ford, Director
Dennis Gilkey, Director



Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

BERT

1 message

don_griffin1@comcast.net <don_griffin1@comcast.net>

Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 6:51 AM

To: chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org, fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org, jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org, jessie.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org, laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org, nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org, rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org, Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Dear Bonita Springs Council Members and County Commissioners,

The Bonita Fairways Community Association *Homeowners* Association Board of Trustees, representing 585 homes, discussed the proposed "Rail to Trail" project on the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast Railway in a short survey on 12/18/2022.

"Think this is a great Idea. We should support and send board support.

Yes, I think this project deserves our support.



This would be a great project to support. I am all for it.

Great Idea it will be an asset to the community"

Our unanimous conclusion was that we **SUPPORT** the proposal! We believe that our residents, current and future, will greatly benefit from this project and see improvements in health, quality of life and property values. We urge that the leaders of the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County work with our local, state and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality.

Don Griffin

President

Bonita Fairways Community Association, Inc.



Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Fwd: BERT Communications from BI BOD to Municipal and County Representatives1 message

Deb Orton <friendsofbert@gmail.com>
To: Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 3:23 PM

Woo Hoo!!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Eli Dolinsky** <eli_dolinsky_cpa@yahoo.com>

Date: Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 4:18 PM

Subject: BERT Communications from BI BOD to Municipal and County Representatives

To: Bonita Isles Homeowners' Assoc - Michelle Pacitto <michelle.pacitto@gulfbreezemanagement.com>

CC: Jsweeney46 <jsweeney46@aol.com>, Steve Jones <ssjones1949@aol.com>, Deborah Orton <friendsofbert@gmail.com>, Craig Bennington <craigbennington@gmail.com>

Hi Michelle:

Per the BOD agreement in our monthly meeting yesterday-please forward the following content via **letter and e-mail**-as follows for the **Municipal and County Reps**:

Dear Bonita Springs Mayor/Council Members and Lee County Commissioners:

The Bonita Isles Homeowners Association Board of Directors discussed the proposed "Rail to Trail" project on the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast Railway at our most recent board meeting on 01/10/2023. Our unanimous conclusion was that we SUPPORT the proposal! We believe that our residents, current and future, will greatly benefit from this project and see improvements in health, quality of life and property values. We urge that the leaders of the the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County work with our local, state and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality.

*Sincerely,
Bonita Isles HOA BOD*

1. Mail hard signed copies of the above letter to:
 1. **Bonita Springs City Council and Mayor**
9101 Bonita Beach Rd., Bonita Springs, FL 34135
 2. **Lee County Commissioners**
2120 Main St., Fort Myers, FL 33901
 3. **Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization**
PO BOX 150045 Cape Coral, FL 33915

2. Email copy of the signed letter above with **Subject " BERT-BONITA ESTERO RAIL TRAIL"** to all the following:

rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org
jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org
jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org
laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org
chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org
nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org
fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org
dist1@leegov.com
dist2@leegov.com
dist3@leegov.com
dist4@leegov.com
dist5@leegov.com
dscott@leempo.com

Best regards,

Eli Dolinsky
(M) 732-241-2839

Bonita National Golf & Country Club
17501 Bonita National Blvd
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

April 27, 2023

Friends of Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT)

We are addressing this letter to the Bonita Springs Mayor & City Council, The Village of Estero Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members, all District Commissioners of Lee County, and the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization, all of whom work to help lead their communities to achieve the best life possible here in Southwest Florida.

The Bonita National Golf & Country Club Master Homeowners Association Board of Directors represents a community of 1,459 homes in Bonita Springs. We have been following the developments regarding the “Bonita/Estero Rail to Trail” BERT project on the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast Railway. After discussions at our most recent board meeting on April 24, 2023, our unanimous conclusion was that we **SUPPORT** the proposal being made for this project. We believe that our residents, current and future, would greatly benefit from the realization of this project. The potential benefits for our residents include improvements in health, quality of life and property values. Therefore, we feel it is important to add our voice to the growing support for this project.

We urge the leaders of Lee County, the Village of Estero, and the City of Bonita Springs to work with our local, state, and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality.

Sincerely,

Bonita National Master Homeowner's Association
Board of Directors

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
CEDAR CREEK PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
ENDORSEMENT OF FRIENDS OF BONITA ESTERO RAIL TRAIL**

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted by the Board of Directors (Board) of Cedar Creek Property Owners Association, Inc. (Association) on the 11th day of December, 2024.

WHEREAS, residents of Cedar Creek desire a safe place to walk, run and bike; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT) was formed to generate public support for the construction of a rail-to-trail on a certain 14-mile section of the unused Seminole Gulf Coast railway which borders the Cedar Creek community and would provide its residents a safe walking, running and bicycling transportation alternative throughout the towns of Estero and Bonita Springs; and

WHEREAS, BERT seeks to add Cedar Creek to its current list of 26 communities, representing over 22,000 local residents, that have endorsed its efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board hereby officially endorses the efforts of BERT and its ongoing work to see to the completion and ongoing operation of the Bonita Estero Rail Trail.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing was duly adopted by the Board at a meeting duly held in accordance with Chapter 720, Florida Statutes, and the Bylaws of the Association.

CERTIFIED TO AND ATTESTED BY:

Sign: 

Lou Sala
Association Secretary



Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Re: Friends of BERT Update and T-shirts!

1 message

Deborah Orton <friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com>

Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 4:36 PM

To: David Dore-Smith <davidds@copperleafgc.com>, Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

David,
The endorsement is fantastic news!
Copying Steve here.
Thank you!

Deb Orton, President

friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com<https://bonitaesterorailtrail.com>

On Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 5:25 PM David Dore-Smith <davidds@copperleafgc.com> wrote:

Good evening Deborah,

Just a quick note to say that Copperleaf's Board of directors, at their Tuesday meeting, unanimously endorsed the BERT initiative.

Have a fantastic weekend.

David

On Jan 27, 2023, at 4:59 PM, Deborah Orton <friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com> wrote:

Hello Friends of BERT

One week ago I sent a member update, we had 1,600 Friends of BERT and eight HOA Board endorsements. Today we surpassed 2,000 members and eleven HOA Board endorsements.

You are getting the word out through Nextdoor; Facebook; Newsletters and talking with your friends and neighbors. Thank you! You are willing to talk with your HOA Boards, and it's making a difference!

Dear Village of Estero and Lee County Commissioners,

The Estero Bay Village Residents Club, representing 190 homes, discussed the proposed “Rail to Trail” project on the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast Railway at our most recent meeting on March 7, 2023. Our unanimous conclusion was that we **SUPPORT** the proposal! We believe that our residents, current and future, will greatly benefit from this project and see improvements in health, quality of life and property values. We urge that the leaders of the Village of Estero, the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County work with our local, state and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Young

President

Estero Bay Village Residents Club



Forest Creek Villas Condo Association
10968 Leitner Creek Dr #148
Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

January 12, 2023

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council members,

Forest Creek Villas Condo Association strongly endorses the Bonita Estero Rail Trail. While we are a small community we have many bikers that have to load up and drive out of town for safe biking.

Bike riding in Bonita Springs is a dangerous endeavor. Residents of our area need safe biking options.

This rail trail will also enhance the downtown area for vendors and visitors. When such a trail is available, it could help reduce auto traffic. Many people use biking trails for commuting.

Good rail trails are destinations! Wildly successful trails: Legacy Trail Venice, Good Neighbor Trail in Brooksville enhance just to name a couple.

Sincerely,

President - Jenny Kirchner JenniferKirchner6@gmail.com
Vice President - Mike Foughty o87841872g@yahoo.com
Treasurer - Ken McDaniel Ken@coleys.com
Secretary - Debbie Temple DTemple860@aol.com
Member at Large - Leslie Dover lparris52@aol.com



Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Re: FW: [EXTERNAL]Fountain Lakes note.. Endorsement of Estero Bonita bike trail

1 message

Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 9:02 AM

To: Ryan Willoughby <ryanw@rcsrrigation.com>

Cc: Craig Bennington <craigbennington@gmail.com>, "accia0041@aol.com" <accia0041@aol.com>, Deborah Orton <friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com>

Ryan,

Thank you for your support! Please see the attached document for suggested content of an email we'd love sent to Estero village council members. Feel free to personalize it but please include the number of homes in Fountain Lakes. Email addresses are on the last page.

Thanks again!

Steve Gunther**Friends of Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT)**stgunther@gmail.com

612-859-3729

Citizen | Investor | Multisports Enthusiast



On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 8:11 AM Deborah Orton <friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com> wrote:

Thank you for your board endorsement!

I've added Steve Gunther to this email as he and Craig Bennington are point people on the HOA endorsements. This trail will benefit all of us in Lee County and your endorsement is a powerful way to show support.
Deb Orton

On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 8:02 AM Ryan Willoughby <ryanw@rcsrrigation.com> wrote:

The Fountain Lakes Board and community would like to give our endorsement for the Rails to Trails project.

Ryan Willoughby

President

Fountain Lakes Community Association, Inc.



HACIENDA
VILLAGE

Hacienda Village Homeowners Association

27820 Hacienda East Boulevard

Bonita Springs Fl. 34135

Office (239)-947-6501 • Fax (239)-948-3748

E-mail: haciendahomeowners@gmail.com

January 16th, 2023

City of Bonita Springs Council and Mayor,

Refernce: Railroad trail to Bike Trail Proposal

On behalf of the 192 Residents of the Hacienda Village HOA (we are the second oldest HOA in Bonita Springs and were built right after Spanish Wells) I would like to offer our support of the "bonitaesterorailtrail" which we think would be a great addition to our City.

In the City of Naples they have taken over parts of the street thereby placing bicycles and cars on the same surface which is dangerous and we believe that this trail would be a huge improvement over a trail like that.

Having lived near another "rail to trail" program before moving to Florida 18 years ago I know what a positive impact this type of trail would have on our community.

Please do what you can do to bring this trail to reality, and you can count on our support going forward.

Thank You,

Jerry Carlin

President of the Hacienda Village HOA



Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Meadowbrook at Bonita Springs Homeowners Association.

1 message

Joel Messinger <joel@pegasuscam.com>

Thu, Mar 16, 2023 at 11:19 AM

To: "friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com" <friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com>, "stgunther@gmail.com" <stgunther@gmail.com>

Cc: As <omegaman3721@aol.com>

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am with Pegasus Property Management, and we manage the above captioned Association. At the most recent Board of Directors meeting the board discussed and voted unanimously to support the project to the committee in the work and actions they are taking.

If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me. Again, we thank you for your continued efforts.

Joel Messinger, CAM

8840 Terrene Court, Suite 102

Bonita Springs, FL 34135

(239)454-8568 Fax (239)454-5191

Joel@pegasuscam.com



Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Re: Pelican Landing Community Association Support of the Bonita Estero Rail Trail

1 message

Lori Nalli <lori@pelicanlanding.com>

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 10:32 AM

To: "rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org" <rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org>, "jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.com" <jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.com>, "jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org" <jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org>, "laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org" <laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org>, "chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org" <chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org>, "nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.com" <nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.com>, "fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org" <fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org>, "jribble@estero-fl.gov" <jribble@estero-fl.gov>, "fiesel@estero-fl.gov" <fiesel@estero-fl.gov>, "mclain@estero-fl.gov" <mclain@estero-fl.gov>, "errington@estero-fl.gov" <errington@estero-fl.gov>, "boesch@estero-fl.gov" <boesch@estero-fl.gov>, "ward@estero-fl.gov" <ward@estero-fl.gov>, "wilson@estero-fl.gov" <wilson@estero-fl.gov>, "dist1@leegov.com" <dist1@leegov.com>, "dist2@leegov.com" <dist2@leegov.com>, "dist3@leegov.com" <dist3@leegov.com>, "dist4@leegov.com" <dist4@leegov.com>, "dist5@leegov.com" <dist5@leegov.com>

Cc: Grace Lennon <grace@pelicanlanding.com>, PLCA Board - Linda Bilodeau <lindabilodeau19@gmail.com>, "stgunther@gmail.com" <stgunther@gmail.com>, Lori Nalli <lori@pelicanlanding.com>

Good morning. The below email is being sent on behalf of PLCA President, Linda Bilodeau.

Dear Village, City Council Members and County Commissioners,

The Pelican Landing Community Association (PLCA) Board of Directors discussed the proposed "Rail to Trail" project on the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast Railway at our most recent board meeting on 11/17/22. Our unanimous conclusion was that we **SUPPORT** the proposal! We believe that our residents, current and future, will greatly benefit from this project and see improvements in health, quality of life and property values. We urge that the leaders of the Village of Estero, the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County work with our local, state and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality.

Sincerely,

Linda Bilodeau

President, PLCA board of directors

Lindabilodeau19@gmail.com

Grace Lennon

General Manager, PLCA

grace@pelicanlanding.com



Lori A. Nalli

Executive Administrative Assistant

Pelican Landing Community Association, Inc.

24501 Walden Center Drive

Bonita Springs, FL 34134

239.947.5977 Ext. 212

Email: lnalli@pelicanlanding.com

Website: www.pelicanlanding.com



24/7 Customer Care Center: 866.378.1099

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)



December 16, 2022

From: Pelican Sound Golf and River Club

To: Planning Boards of Lee County and the Village of Estero

Subj: Support for Bonita Estero Rail Trail [BERT]

The purpose of this letter is to express Pelican Sound Golf and River Club's support for BERT. It is understood that Lee County is among the worst counties for cyclist injuries and deaths in the United States and this trail, with connectors, will give both pedestrians and cyclists an alternative to busy roads.

At its December meeting on behalf of its members, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to endorse this proposed multi-use trail effort.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Long", is positioned above the printed name.

Eric Long, General Manager/Chief Operating Officer
Pelican Sound Golf and River Club



Club at Rapallo Inc.
Tony Balzo- President
8551 Via Rapallo Drive
Estero, FL 33928
GM@rapallo.net
239.949.3347

Date: 1.26.2023

Jim Ward
Village of Estero Council Member: District 6

9401 Corkscrew Palms Circle
Estero, FL 33928

Dear Mr. Ward:

The Club at Rapallo residents have a chance to gain a safe place to walk, run and bike. A study is underway by the Lee County MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) to determine the feasibility of converting a 14-mile section of the unused Seminole Gulf Coast railway into a 12-foot wide, paved, multi-use trail in a park-like setting.

The section that runs from Alico Road to Bonita Beach Road, crossing Coconut Road just east of Coconut Point Mall.

At Alico Road, it's just a short jog to link with the John Yarbrough Linear Trail, South of Bonita Beach Road the trail will ultimately connect to the trail network in Collier County including the new Paradise Coast Trail.

The Rapallo Board supports the proposed Bonita Estero Rail Trail and would like to ask for your help and consideration for support towards this proposed project as well.

Sincerely,

Tony Balzo

Rapallo Master Board President

\

On behalf of the Riverwoods Plantation Board of Directors I would like to ask for your support of the proposed Rail to Trail project on the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast Railway.

After discussing this project at our most recent Board meeting, held on January 16, 2023, it was our unanimous decision to support this project. We feel it will bring improvements to our area and give the residents of our 640 homes a safe place to bike and walk. We know that staying active is a key element to enjoying long and healthy lives.

We ask that the leaders of the Village of Estero, along with Bonita Springs and Lee County work with our local, state and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality.

My personal support for this project comes from riding along the converted rail trails in Rhode Island where the scenery and safety made riding a pleasure. Riding in this area with the highest number of auto-bike fatalities in the country makes this project all the more pressing.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support of this most important project.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Gunning
Board of Director member
in Riverwoods Plantation

TO: Lee County District 3 Commissioner, Ray Sandelli, dist3@leegov.com

[Mailing Address:](#)

[P.O. Box 398](#)

[Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398](#)

Dear Commissioner Ray Sandelli,

I am writing this letter to you as the Councilor representing our Cordova at Spanish Wells community in Bonita Springs at Lee County.

The Spanish Wells Community Homeowners Association (SWCA) Board of Directors, representing 1351 homes, discussed the proposed BERT "Rail to Trail" project on the unused Seminole Gulf Coast Railway at our most recent board meeting held on June 19, 2024. Our unanimous conclusion was that we **SUPPORT** the proposal! The Spanish Wells community shares more than half a mile of border with the rail property in Bonita Springs and we believe that our residents, current and future, will greatly benefit from this project and see improvements in health, quality of life and property values. We request that you please support any proposals to advance the realization of the Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT) and work with our local, state and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality.

Thank you very much in advance for your support.

John F Harter

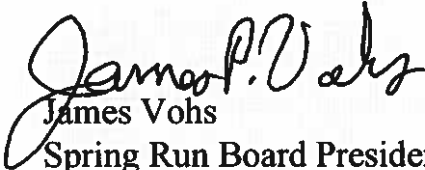
President Spanish Wells Community HOA



April 21, 2023

Dear Estero Village Council Members and Lee County Commissioners,

The Spring Run Golf Club Board of Directors, representing 847 homes, discussed the proposed "Rail to Trail" project on the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast Railway at our most recent board meeting on 3/23/23. Our conclusion was that we **SUPPORT** the proposal! We believe that our residents, current and future, will greatly benefit from this project and see improvements in health, quality of life and property values, especially since our property will be adjacent to the trail. We urge that the leaders of the Village of Estero, the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County work with our local, state and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality.


James Vohs
Spring Run Board President
Spring Run Golf Club



Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Re: The Harborage supports the Rail Trail Project

1 message

Deborah Orton <friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 3:22 PM

To: Chris Olney <chris.harborage@gmail.com>, Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Cc: doug.hattaway@tpl.org, charles.hines@tpl.org

Chris,

This is excellent news! That makes your HOA our 28th community to endorse this important rail to trail project!

Steve Gunther can help you with our next steps. You will see your community listed with others on our website.

Deb Orton, President

friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com<https://bonitaesterorailtrail.com>On Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 3:10 PM Chris Olney <chris.harborage@gmail.com> wrote:

Deborah, Charles, and Doug-

The Harborage, located at [5000 Harborage Drive](#) in Fort Myers (33908) supports the Bonita Estero Rail Trail Project.

The surrounding community is in dire need of projects such as this one to foster greater health by providing safe cycling, walking and running routes that connect residents to parks and other public facilities.

Thank you for leading this project.

Best Regards,

Chris Olney

President, The Harborage Owners Association

Resolution for The Preserve at Corkscrew (TPAC) Community Name Endorsement

Supporting the Bonita Estero Rail to Trail (BERT) a Recreational Path

Background

The Preserve at Corkscrew (TPAC) recognizes the importance of enhancing community engagement and promoting recreational activities for residents and visitors alike. Bonita Springs, Estero, and Collier County have endeavored into a commendable project to convert the vacated Seminole Railway into a recreational path, providing a valuable resource for the people in these areas. The portion of this railway included in the BERT project runs between Estero Parkway at the north and runs south to Wiggins Pass in Collier County.

Resolution

Whereas

- TPAC believes in fostering a spirit of community and cooperation among neighboring regions.
- The proposed recreational path will offer an inclusive space for exercise, leisure, and outdoor activities for individuals of all ages.
- Such a project aligns with TPAC's mission to promote healthy living and environmental conservation through community initiatives.
- TPAC endorsement does not affect residents financially.

Be it resolved

- TPAC hereby offers its community name as an endorsement for the proposed combined effort project by Bonita Springs, Estero, and Collier County.
- TPAC commits to supporting and advocating for the conversion and maintenance of the unused railway into a recreational path.
- TPAC encourages its residents and guests to benefit from the recreational path.

Conclusion

TPAC is proud to contribute its name and support to this meaningful endeavor, reinforcing the bonds between our communities and enhancing the quality of life for all residents and guests. We look forward to seeing the positive impacts of this project and the new opportunities it will bring to the people of Bonita Springs, Estero, and Collier County.

Approved by TPAC Board of Directors on 5 / 6 / 2025

TPAC President Randa McGowan

On Fri, May 19, 2023 at 11:16 AM Craig Jacobson <ansky777@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning Michelle,

Denise and I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone in the Tidewater community for their support of the Bonita-Estero Rail Trail (BERT) project, which led to the endorsement of the project by the Tidewater Board of Directors at the May 2 Board meeting. Our thanks include especially the people who signed the petition at the Amenity Center numbering over 200 at the time of the Board's endorsement. With the Board's endorsement Tidewater joined 20 other communities in endorsing the development of the trail, along with many other businesses, civic and governmental organizations that have also signaled their support.

While negotiations with the railroad continue for the acquisition of the tracks discussions have also begun on possible sources of funding for the acquisition in the event the talks with the railroad are successful. Hopefully the negotiations can be concluded soon and the detailed planning phase of the project can be started. Also, efforts continue to get out the word about BERT and find new members for Friends of BERT. Friends of BERT posters have been displayed in around Tidewater (thank you) as well as local bike shops and other businesses that have gotten onboard with the BERT message. As always we greatly appreciate your help and support and we're always happy to answer any questions that anyone may have regarding BERT or Friends of BERT.

Best regards,
Denise Picard and Craig Jacobson

On Tue, May 2, 2023 at 3:53 PM Craig Jacobson <ansky777@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello Friends of BERT Team,

This morning the Tidewater by Del Webb board voted to endorse BERT and will send a letter to that effect to the Estero Council and the Lee County commissioners. Please feel free to add us to the growing list of communities whose boards have endorsed BERT.

Thank you
Craig Jacobson

On Wed, Mar 1, 2023 at 4:03 PM Albert Blumberg <alb1019@gmail.com> wrote:
To whom it may concern -

I am the president of the Toscana Village Association in Bonita Springs (a community within the Vasari Country Club). Our Board earlier this week voted to support BERT. Is there anything else you need to know?

Albert Blumberg
President



Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

Fwd: BERT Project

1 message

Deborah Orton <friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com>
To: Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>, beth.castro@bonitaesterorailtrail.com

Mon, Apr 21, 2025 at 2:48 PM

Deb Orton, President

friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com<https://bonitaesterorailtrail.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Christine Clark** <christine@valenciabonitahoa.org>

Date: Sun, Apr 20, 2025 at 10:20 AM

Subject: BERT Project

To: friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com <friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com>CC: Andy Leon <andy@valenciabonitahoa.org>, Kip Traffican <kip@valenciabonitahoa.org>, Greg Voci <greg@valenciabonitahoa.org>, Cary Robinson <cary@valenciabonitahoa.org>

To: Friends of Bert Board Members: Deb Orton, Steve Gunther, Christine Comotto, Jodi Walbourn, Beth Castro

The Board of Directors of the Valencia Bonita Homeowners Association represents a community of 996 homes in Bonita Springs. Many of our residents have expressed support and enthusiasm for BERT.

Our Board discussed the proposed Bonita Estero Rail Trail project at our most recent board meeting on April 17, 2025. Our unanimous conclusion was that we as a community ENDORSE the project!

Therefore, please add Valencia Bonita to the growing list of communities supporting BERT. We believe that our community will greatly benefit from the completion of the project and eventually see improvements in our quality of life.

We appreciate your efforts!

Best regards,

Christine Clark

President

Valencia Bonita Homeowners Association, Inc.

16621 Valencia Bonita Blvd

Bonita Springs FL 34135

christine@valenciabonitahoa.org

610 291-9278



The information contained in this email message is considered to be confidential. If you receive this message in error, kindly notify the sender.



Steve Gunther <stgunther@gmail.com>

The Villages at Country Creek Master Association

1 message

VCC GM <gm@vccgolfclub.com>

Fri, May 10, 2024 at 8:33 AM

To: "chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org" <chris.corrie@cityofbonitasprings.org>, "fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org" <fred.forbes@cityofbonitasprings.org>, "jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org" <jamie.bogacz@cityofbonitasprings.org>, "jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org" <jesse.purdon@cityofbonitasprings.org>, "laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org" <laura.carr@cityofbonitasprings.org>, "nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org" <nigel.fullick@cityofbonitasprings.org>, "rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org" <rick.steinmeyer@cityofbonitasprings.org>, "mclain@estero-fl.gov" <mclain@estero-fl.gov>, "jribble@estero-fl.gov" <jribble@estero-fl.gov>, "fiesel@estero-fl.gov" <fiesel@estero-fl.gov>, "fayhee@estero-fl.gov" <fayhee@estero-fl.gov>, "lopez@estero-fl.gov" <lopez@estero-fl.gov>, "ward@estero-fl.gov" <ward@estero-fl.gov>, "zalucki@estero-fl.gov" <zalucki@estero-fl.gov>, "dist1@leegov.com" <dist1@leegov.com>, "dist2@leegov.com" <dist2@leegov.com>, "dist3@leegov.com" <dist3@leegov.com>, "dist4@leegov.com" <dist4@leegov.com>, "dist5@leegov.com" <dist5@leegov.com>, "dscott@leempo.com" <dscott@leempo.com>, "friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com" <friendsofbert@bonitaesterorailtrail.com>, "bert-treasurer@bonitaesterorailtrail.com" <bert-treasurer@bonitaesterorailtrail.com>

Cc: Denny Simonavice <DJSimo@vccgolfclub.com>

Dear Village, City Council Members and County Commissioners,

The Villages at Country Creek Master Association Board of Directors, representing 966 homes, discussed the proposed "Rail to Trail" project on the unused Seminole Gulf Coast Railway at our most recent board meeting on April 8, 2024. Our unanimous conclusion was that we **SUPPORT** the proposal! We believe that our residents, current and future, will greatly benefit from this project and see improvements in health, quality of life and property values. We urge that the leaders of the Village of Estero, the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County work with our local, state and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality.

Sharon Pisanchyn, CAM
General Manager

The Villages at Country Creek
21180 Country Creek Drive
Estero, FL 33928

239-947-2050

gm@vccgolfclub.com



January 20, 2023

Dear Village, City Council Members and County Commissioners,

The West Bay Club Community Association Board of Directors, representing 700+ homes in Estero, discussed the proposed "Rail to Trail" project on the abandoned Seminole Gulf Coast Railway at our most recent board meeting on January 20th, 2023. Our unanimous conclusion was that we **SUPPORT** the proposal! We believe that our residents, current and future, will greatly benefit from this project and see improvements in health, quality of life and property values. We urge that the leaders of the Village of Estero, the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County work with our local, state and federal authorities to quickly make this proposal a reality.

Sincerely,

Glen Harper, President

On behalf of the West Bay Club Board of Directors