

Good afternoon, Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. We all recognize the importance of replacing aging infrastructure like the Brooker Creek Bridge — that's not in dispute. But the current plan for this project raises serious concerns that, if left unaddressed, could cause long-term harm to our neighborhood's safety, economy, and quality of life.

My name is Rozina Mardhani and I'm here on behalf of Ridgemoor and Tarpon Woods residents, and also as a small business owner in the community.

This bridge is one of only **two ways in and out** of our neighborhood. According to USPS, there are over **5,000 homes within a mile** of Ridgemoor — and nearly **8,000 within two miles**. Any disruption here doesn't just inconvenience—it cuts off vital access for thousands, including school buses, emergency vehicles, and daily commuters.

I also want to highlight the **impact on small businesses**. My family runs a convenience store at the intersection of Ridgemoor and East Lake Road. We rely heavily on our local customers. We don't have multiple locations or corporate resources to fall back on. We are already stretched thin with higher minimum wage and increased food costs. With traffic diverted or severely limited or worst, with a total cut off for **two years or more**, our customer base will drop significantly — and we may not survive it. Please note that there are other family-run small businesses in the two neighboring plazas and I am sure that they share our sentiment.

We're also deeply concerned about **school safety**. Young families will face hardship due to constant back-ups on a reduced-access bridge with construction and no traffic lights. These could cause missed buses and increase risks for children — every day, for months.

Finally, there's the issue of **property values**. Zillow shows that Pinellas County property values are already down almost 9% this past year. Reduced access and visibility from this project could worsen that trend — affecting both home and business equity.

So I respectfully ask the Board to consider three key actions:

1. **Explore faster or alternative construction methods** that minimize full closures — like building the new bridge before removing the old one.
2. **Protect school bus routes** to ensure safety and consistency for our families.
3. **Provide support for small businesses** — Ensure clear signage and access routing, and to provide grants or low-interest loans to small business owners to survive economic hardship.

Thank you again for your time and service. We ask only that the short-term burden of this project doesn't create long-term damage to the community we all share.

ENDORSEMENT OF STATEMENT BY ROZINA MARDHANI

TO: Pinellas County Commissioner David Eggers

Pinellas County Commissioner Chris Scherer

Pinellas County Commissioner Vince Nowicki

Pinellas County Commissioner Chris Latvala

Pinellas County Commissioner Kathleen Peters

Pinellas County Commissioner René Flowers

Pinellas County Commissioner Brian ScoΣ

Pinellas County Administrator Barry Burton

I am a business owner / stakeholder of one of one of the small businesses outside the Ridgemoor area and in the community that will be impacted by the current Ridgemoor Blvd Brooker Creek Bridge Replacement Project. I have read a transcript of the 1-page statement that Rozina Mardhani will present before the Board of County Commissioners on October 21, 2025. I agree with everything noted by Ms. Mardhani in their statement about the impact to our business, and request that you do everything possible to review and plan this project to minimize the risk to have more favorable outcomes.

Name: Jennifer Cadagin Date: 10/21/25

Signature: Jennifer Cadagin

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TO: Pinellas County Commissioner David Eggers

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Name: SINNA STEPHAN Date: 10/21/25

Signature: 

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Name: Charles Ravitz Date: 10/21/2025

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Name: Chenjun Lin Date: 10/21/25

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Name: Rahim Mardhani Date: 10/21/25

Signature: 

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Name: Rozina Mardhani Date: 10/21/25

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