



CITIZEN COMMENT CARD

The Board of County Commissioners values your participation

Please fill out this card if you wish to speak or record your sentiment regarding an agenda item or general topic. Individuals wishing to speak may do so for up to three minutes when called to the lectern.

Citizens to be Heard

Agenda Item

Agenda date: _____

Agenda item number (NOT case number): _____

Speaking:

For Against Undecided

Waive speaking:

In Support Against

(The Chairman will read this information into the record.)

Topic: PINELLAS TRAIL NORTH LEOPARD ROAD

Name: BRUCE RUMBLE

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Please refer to the **Pinellas County Commission Public Participation & Decorum Rules** for details.

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Relocation of the proposed Pinellas Trail Expansion - North Loop

- by: [Bruce Rumble](#)
- recipient: Neighbors that are near or adjacent to the Duke Energy easement, Pinellas tax payers, and trail users that are concerned about their health and well being!, [Clearwater, FL](#)
113 SUPPORTERS IN CLEARWATER
150 SUPPORTERS

The Pinellas County Transportation Dept. wants to place an expansion to the Pinellas Trail down the Duke Energy Power line easement between Enterprise Rd. and Tampa Rd. The placement of the trail here would cause a multitude of problems that we will list below. The solution is to either cancel the project and save tax money, or re-route the trail to run east on Enterprise Rd. to McMullen Booth Rd. and then along the side of McMullen Booth Rd. north to John Chestnut Park/Lake Tarpon. This plan will also make it possible to link/incorporate this trail by extending it south on McMullen Booth Rd. to Gulf to Bay to link Courtney Campbell Trail going to Hillsborough County and cost allot less than the proposed placement on the Duke Energy easement.

The following are many of the reasons NOT to place the trail on the Duke Energy easement:

Cost: the placement of the trail will cost far less along McMullen Booth Rd. It will only need to widen the existing sidewalk and route down East Lake Road at that exit off McMullen Booth Rd. This will save construction costs and a need for a bridge over the Tarpon channel.

Currently the design of the project is to put in crosswalks at Main St./580 and Curlew roads which would be highly dangerous to bicyclists and pedestrians using this trail. It would also cause large traffic jams on these roads that are very busy every day of the week at any hour. With the amount of traffic that goes over these roads there most certainly will be accidents and fatalities involved with automobiles at these crosswalks. The loss of just one life is too high a price to pay for an exercise trail that is intended to increase health. Pinellas County has made it on the list of "Smart Growth America" listing the most dangerous pedestrian areas, and these crossings will only add to the reputation pushing us to the top. The cost of two pedestrian bridges over these roads would exceed 6 million dollars which is the only solution to this problem. The construction costs far outweighs amount of people that would use this trail and any benefits it might bring.

Placement of a trail below power lines also is a bad idea as known facts of EMF's (ElectroMagnetic Fields) are hazardous to human health, and known to be cancer causing if you are close enough to the fields, which this would be. Again, if this is for health, this will be causing cancer and other health hazards. The only solution to this problem is to place the trail along the South side of Countryside Blvd., Landmark Dr., or McMullen Booth Rd. (From an Internet search)...How far away from high voltage power lines is safe? The strongest magnetic fields are

usually emitted from high voltage transmission lines — the power lines on the big, tall metal towers. To be sure that you are reducing the exposure levels to 0.5 milligauss (mG) or less, a safety distance of 700 feet may be needed. It could be much less, but sometimes more. Hundreds of studies worldwide have shown that being next to high voltage power lines and other parts of the power transmission network increases your risk of cancer and other health problems. The closer you are the more you are bombarded with dangerous EMFs. EMFs are measured in milliGauss (mG). The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that you limit your exposure to 0.5 mG to 2.5 mG.). If it is okay to be under these transmission lines, why would the EPA have a recommended mG reading? Current measurement on the existing trail south of Countryside mall is over 10, which is the same under the power line on the Duke Energy easement proposed. Take a look at what the number one internet naturalist Dr. Joseph Mercola states about EMF's:

<https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2018/01/08/reduce-emf-exposure.aspx>

<https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2011/07/09/vickie-warren-on-effects-of-electromagnetic-fields.aspx>

I have personally measured the gauss readings with an Extech ISO certified EMF meter. At the current trail running south of Countryside down to Sunset Point Rd mG readings range 5-11.5 mG on the trail and this trail was installed directly below the High Tension wires.

The placement of the trail on the easement also provides a hazard to residents along the easement having many people traveling on the trail that could possibly start a fire and cause wildfires in the field grass on the easement, spreading to adjoining residents homes; which has already happened several times. These fires have burned down many fences, and almost caught my boat and house on fire. The residents on the easement don't need or want the increased risk, increase in insurance rates, increase in crime rate, and decrease in property values due to this.

There is also a high risk of pedestrians on the trail being struck by lightning, as there is a raised level of attraction of lightning to the high tension wires and towers, and being that we live in the lightning capital of the US, this would be a very dangerous place to be during a storm.

The agreement with Duke Energy is if work on the towers or high tension lines is needed that the trail would have to be closed during repair and construction processes, where they use multiple large bucket trucks to change out insulators or work on wiring and towers. If they damage the trail, in their agreement with Pinellas County, they will not be responsible for repairs to the trail or components. Also, there is a buried oil line on the easement that causes consideration of this trail placement and effect to human life. These are the reasons for the large easement that was put in place many years ago and has not allowed trespassing on it. Duke Energy is also requiring the County to carry liability insurance on their easement costing 56,000-80,000 per year.

The increase in crime rate and limited access for the police and EMS with this placement of the trail on the easement would surely place a burden on the residents and trail pedestrians. Placement of the trail along Countryside Blvd., Landmark Dr., or McMullen Booth Rd., would allow easy surveillance and access for this.

The decreased privacy and noise would also be a burden on residents along the easement as many of us have purchased homes many years ago along the easement knowing that we would have tranquility and privacy and now this would be gone. An increase of trespassing on residents private property from trail users would also be a burden to residents along the trail. We do not want this!

These are just some of the good reasons NOT to place the trail on the Duke Energy Easement. Please join us by signing this petition so that we can present it to the Pinellas County Department of Transportation, Pinellas Board of Counsel Members, and Florida DOT to get the current plan changed. Thank you!

150 SUPPORTERS

Local CommentsLocal SignaturesAll

name not displayed

Florida

15 hours ago

Concerned about traffic and property values.

name not displayed

Florida

2 days ago

Primary concern is safety, not everyone who rides a bike is in it for health reason. This will put riders within feet of homes in Chateaux Woods. How can you ensure the safety of our families and property? McMullen Booth sounds like a better, safer route for all.

Leslie E.

Florida

2 days ago

My family and I live in Chateau Woods and one of the best things about this area is that it is quiet. This will be a major disruption to our neighborhood and it is totally unnecessary, not to mention the construction costs. Please use common sense and find another solution!

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

8 days ago

See someone started by mentioning the Catholic church on Curlew Rd - good point. Interestingly, although the church has a large piece of land abutting the power line and along Curlew Rd, neither portion of their land will have the trail (although it would be a natural continuation of the rest of the trail (beneath the power line)). Instead of the obvious path, Pinellas has conveniently chosen to run the trail through a quiet residential neighborhood Meadow Wood / Countryside Blvd... If anyone competent looked at what is occurring, problems are evident!

name not displayed

Florida

8 days ago

This proposal would place the trail behind my home.

Mike J.

Florida

10 days ago

Y'all better know, the Catholic church on Cur

[SEND](#)

David W.

Florida

13 days ago

Trails should never be near, adjacent or through residential areas. Trails should be located on or adjacent to commercially zoned property or state roads.

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

14 days ago

Safety is my major concern. Chateaux Woods already has a problem with cars driving thru our property to 'cut thru' for a short cut. Now we'll have bikers, walkers cutting thru to get to Countryside. This is not the way to go.

name not displayed

Florida

14 days ago

I live in Chateaux Woods and this trail would run along our association and would be within feet of our residences.

Not good at all for safety reasons.

name not displayed

Florida

15 days ago

I will sell my house and move if the trail is brought here. We moved here to get away from another house that had the trail behind it! There was constant crime happening related to the trail... Thanks Pinellas!!!

name not displayed

Florida

16 days ago

This trail would be 4 feet away from my grandmothers living room and dining room windows. Who wants constant traffic from a bunch of strangers in their front or back yard???

Theresa T.

Florida

16 days ago

I will sell my house on Masters drive if this happens. I purchased my home 22 years ago because it is quiet and safe here. This would go right behind my house!

[SEND](#)

Walter E.

Florida

16 days ago

This will negatively impact both property values and our safety.

[SEND](#)

Donna E.

Florida

16 days ago

I am extremely concerned about how this will effect our property values, as well as the increased number of strangers that this will bring to our neighborhood. We purchased at Chateaux Woods many years ago because it was a beautiful and safe neighborhood. I would hate to see this change!

[SEND](#)

Thomas G.

Florida

16 days ago

The intersection of Meadow Wood & Countryside Blvd is a major school bus stop. The trail would increase the danger for the students, At least 8 buses load and unloads students each day. Increased foot & bicycle traffic creates more opportunity for crime. The Enterprise Rd to McMullen Booth Rd. impacts fewer homeowners property & makes a more direct route to the existing trail.

[SEND](#)

Dan C.

Florida

16 days ago

We do not need people right next to our homes, loitering increases crime and lowers our property values.

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

16 days ago

I think it is EXTREMELY unfair and inconsiderate to upset the properties on Meadow Wood. No where else does the Pinellas Trail infringe on people's privacy! Shame on you using our tax money to invade our privacy and peaceful lifestyle that we are accustomed to.

Gloria W.

Florida

16 days ago

I am opposed to the trail running down Meadow Wood Drive! It is planned to be just a few feet from Chateau Woods Condos living area windows. Too close for comfort and a big hit to our property values. We don't want it to zigzag thru our little neighborhood. McMullen Booth Rd is a much better choice for this project.

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

17 days ago

First, expanding the Pinellas trail to block both entrances/exits of Château Woods will increase crime in our neighborhood. We already have too many criminals in our neighborhood, and it is not fair to add more crime. Second, expanding the trail to block both entrances/exits to our neighborhood will decrease our property values. Third, expanding the trail to block both entrances/exits to our neighborhood will make everyone in our neighborhood late to work. Residents will have to wait for all of the bikers and walkers to go by before we can leave and/or enter our property. The city and county should not be able to damage our property without our consent, and we do not consent!

Elizabeth C.

Florida

18 days ago

I live next to the proposed trail and do not want the increased foot traffic.

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

19 days ago

Need to go with less expensive way.

Gary S.

Florida

19 days ago

We don't need the extra foot and bike traffic around our community and the issues that sometimes go with that.

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

20 days ago

Do not want Pinellas Trail expanded under the power lines behind Chateau Woods due to safety, cost and a better place to locate it on McMullen Booth. So unsafe for pedestrians/bikers to have to cross Curlew! Also concerned with my property values and increased crime and privacy loss. This would be poor planning.

name not displayed

Florida

20 days ago

safety, use of tax dollars and peace n quiet leave things as they are

Sandra L.

Florida

20 days ago

concerned about resale value, safety, and privacy

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

20 days ago

Not a wise use of taxpayer money!!! Safety reason are also a concern!!

name not displayed

Florida

20 days ago

I don't want the added pedestrian traffic so close to our homes and neighborhood. We have enough trails! Half the time the bikers aren't even using the trails we have. No more trails!

Klaus R.

Florida

21 days ago

I live here and don't want it in my backyard

[SEND](#)

Jolene S.

Florida

21 days ago

No one wants this in their yard!

[SEND](#)

Jackie W.

Florida

21 days ago

I have lived here for 35 Years. It is safe, quiet and lovely. We don't want more traffic near us, nor spending more tax dollars foolishly. So, expand along the McMullen booth corridor instead.

[SEND](#)

Millie D.

Florida

21 days ago

I think it is much too costly & I hate to see the property value in this beautiful area go down.

[SEND](#)

Ryan P.

Florida

21 days ago

I grew up on this trail

[SEND](#)

Kevin W.

Florida

21 days ago

This will disrupt the privacy and safety of my brother's neighborhood.

[SEND](#)

Margaret B.

Florida

21 days ago

Reducing property value and bringing in strangers close to our homes

[SEND](#)

Anita S.

Florida

22 days ago

I don't think the trail should impact people's privacy, home values, children's safe places to play.

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

22 days ago

We bought in Chateaux Woods 1987, planning to build elsewhere, finding C Woods was a safe village type community we stayed. We have never had any crime, but now we are concerned with the proposal of the Trail, which will be a concern for those living on Meadowwood. They have no back yard now and with the proposal. Anyone can look into the backs of the condos. We have snowbirds and concerns of condo not occupied. A direct line down Curlew to McMullen would be safer, cheaper less traffic crossings and endangering those using the trail. My vote is No to the proposed trail down Meadow Wood

Jou N.

Florida

22 days ago

Because I do not want to bike under power lines

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

22 days ago

As a mother of 2 special needs children, I worry about the safety of my children with strangers being directly in my back yard. I want to know how the city plans on keeping my children safe.

name not displayed

Florida

22 days ago

Living in Chateaux Woods has been wonderful for many years. It has been a little hidden community in a highly populated area. Let's not change things.

Anna Z.

Florida

22 days ago

I would like to maintain my resale value of my home and feel secure with our existing private property.

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

22 days ago

This will increase pedestrian traffic and parking for the trail issues in small quiet neighborhoods that purchased homes in this area for the quiet and privacy. The trail is not wanted in our neighborhood! If the extension is going to happen, please keep it on McMullen Booth as to lessen the damage to the small quiet neighborhoods.

Mollie G.

Florida

22 days ago

Worried about the accidents that could happen. Tampa Bay has a very high pedestrian accident rate as it is Should be on Mc Mullen Booth Rd which makes a lot of sense

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

22 days ago

I have concerns about the increase of noise levels and the lack of safety when construction begins. I support the idea of rerouting the trail.

Mark S.

Florida

22 days ago

I bought in to this area to be away from lots of traffic—auto as well as bicycle and pedestrian.

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

22 days ago

Safety and cost to tax payers

Carolyn W.

Florida

22 days ago

Too many strangers will be passing right through a very kid friendly community. It will make the families feel unsafe

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

22 days ago

I live part time with my daughters family. She has young children who play outside and love to play ball. Having the Pinellas trail right in front of her home would change their lifestyle. Many people walk or ride the pinellas trail. Safety issues would be a major concern. Move it so its not directly in front of family homes.

NATHAN S.

Florida

22 days ago

I live on Meadow Wood Dr., where the addition will be directly across the street from my house. I don't want this eyesore, added traffic, intersection on Countryside Blvd at Meadow Wood and loss of privacy. My condo neighbors across the street - they will probably wind up putting a fence and hedge to try to maintain some privacy, which will make things even uglier. What a waste of money - there's already many many miles of Trail to use.

[SEND](#)

SUZANNE S.

Florida

22 days ago

Im not comfortable with all the increased foot traffic that will cross my house if the trail is put in. My children wont be able to play in the front yard. I would be concerned of theft and property damage. It will not look nice. It should continue along the power easements to curlew rd or go up 580 to McMullan as to not disrupt property owners. I also feel crossing Countryside Blvd would be an accident waiting to happen. People fly down Countryside all the time.

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

25 days ago

Because of safety reasons. Our area is already very congested and I do not want this across from my house.

Gail M.

Florida

a month ago

Safety issues such as an unfenced ponds on the trail that no one has addressed, traffic on nearby heavily traveled roadways. Probability of crime for homes bordering (not just crime on the trail) the proposed trail. Inability of access for first responders and devaluation of property value.

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

a month ago

For safety reasons I do not want the extra traffic in my neighborhood. Please don't allow this

Louis L.

Florida

a month ago

Safety and not necessary

[SEND](#)

Michael M.

Florida

a month ago

FOR THE REASONS LISTED IN THE PETITION

[SEND](#)

Graeme B.

Florida

a month ago

High cost and safety concerns.

[SEND](#)

Disis T.

Florida

a month ago

I'm a busy body and not enough people care about my opinion.

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

a month ago

It would go right beside my home. I want our neighborhood to be quiet and safe. Also, it would decrease our property value.

Abbey B.

Florida

a month ago

I feel uncomfortable and unsafe to have a trail in my backyard.

[SEND](#)

Carole B.

Florida

a month ago

Keeping our neighborhood safe and maintain our property value.

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

a month ago

The crime, decrease in property value, garbage, trespassing! This is going in by my residence and infringes on the community that has been peaceful since I moved back in 2008!

ANTHONY I.

Florida

a month ago

Environmentally sensitive Florida needs more asphalt. Additionally, creating more traffic with the trail in lieu of addressing current congestion fits with the consistent lack of viable planning.

[SEND](#)

Mary F.

Florida

a month ago

My home is on the proposed trail. As the homeowner of record since 2012 I have never been contacted for my input as with many other neighborhood projects. I am opposed to the plans for this trail and would like our voices to be heard. I purchased this home in particular knowing my dogs would be able to play in the yard without any traffic

behind my home. I sacrificed moving next to the power lines for the privacy, now my privacy is being taken from me, what is my recourse? HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE HOMEOWNERS HAVE NO SAY IN THIS?

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

a month ago

Safety, Security, Privacy, and Additional Tax Payer Costs!

richard m.

Florida

a month ago

safety issues

[SEND](#)

Marlo S.

Florida

a month ago

There are ENOUGH trails . My family up there would be drastically affected and their backyard Privacy violated

[SEND](#)

Peggy V.

Florida

a month ago

It will be behind my house. I don't want it there. There are better routes to do this project.

[SEND](#)

Gus V.

Florida

a month ago

One of the reasons we moved to Clearwater is the pedestrian friendly bike trails . This proposed expansion is not safe and cost prohibitive.

[SEND](#)

Deborah V.

Florida

a month ago

One of the reasons we moved to Clearwater is the pedestrian friendly bike trails . This proposed expansion is not safe and the construction and ongoing costs (liability insurance) are prohibitive.

[SEND](#)

Katie R.

Florida

a month ago

This proposed trail would literally run right behind my house. I have major issues with privacy, noise and safety should this proposal go through. No thanks.

[SEND](#)

Paul R.

Florida

a month ago

This proposed trail would literally run right behind my house. I have major issues with privacy, noise and safety should this proposal go through. No thanks.

[SEND](#)

Scott B.

Florida

a month ago

Because the proposed expansion route directly affects the north side of my property.

[SEND](#)

Rev John P.

Florida

a month ago

Affects value of property and privacy

[SEND](#)

name not displayed

Florida

a month ago

It's by my house

Shannon A.

Florida

a month ago

It will bring crime to our area.

[SEND](#)



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Citizens to be Heard
 Agenda Item

Agenda date: 3-12-19

Agenda item number (NOT case number): 27

Speaking:
For Against Undecided

Waive speaking:
In Support Against
(The Chairman will read this information into the record.)

Topic: Expansion of Pinellas Trail

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Please refer to the **Pinellas County Commission Public Participation & Decorum Rules** for details.
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