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To the Chair and Members of the Planning and Environment  
Committee:

Councillor Polhill (Chair)  
Mayor Fontana  
Councillor Branscombe  
Councillor Henderson  
Councillor Hubert  
Councillor White

### **Re – Medway Valley trail proposal**

I thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this matter. As a concerned resident of the immediate area that will be directly impacted by the recommendations from the Planning and Environment Committee on the aforementioned issue, I hope that you will consider my input and comments (and those of my neighbours) into your decisions for this proposal.

Since moving into the Sunningdale West neighbourhood about 3 years ago, our family has been anxiously awaiting the completion of the Medway Valley Trail. In choosing a potential area to establish our home, we had considered many factors important to us – safety of the neighbourhood, proximity to good schools, access to nearby parks and natural areas, etc. We were very pleased and reassured by the City's approved plan (at that time) to provide a **paved continuous link** from our (fairly isolated) neighbourhood to the city's excellent park and trail infrastructure, something we access frequently as a family. I am aware that many options have been evaluated and discussed, and that the City has sought public feedback along the way. In closely evaluating the various proposed options, I would like to strongly reaffirm our family's position for the originally approved plan – **Option 4A – Continuous Link**.

As a resident of the immediate area, our family plans to use this pathway to access the adjacent subdivisions and surrounding parks and trails. Our family enjoys many outdoor activities together, including cycling, walking, and nature photography. Ideally, we would strongly prefer have access to this system year round, especially since there are no safe avenues to travel outside of our neighbourhood along the very busy Wonderland North and Sunningdale roads. For these reasons, an asphalt pathway

providing ease of access for all is truly the only effective means to maximize this trail's potential. This will provide a well delineated, safe and stable surface that can be accessed year round by all our residents – whether they are young children, seniors, or those with mobility issues.

I respect the environmental significance of the area and feel strongly that through well thought out pathway placement and construction, the social and environmental interests can be balanced. There is actually a great deal of evidence that suggests a paved path is MORE ecologically safe in the long term than a nature trail, as users of a paved path tend to remain on the constructed pathway. Through public education information in the area, I have no doubt that the current and future residents of the area will be good stewards of this unique natural resource.

Please include this letter within the Planning and Environment Meeting Agenda Package.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alain Proulx'.

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