



**Patricia A. Provenzano 160 East Illinois Unit 1604 Chicago, Illinois 60611**  
708.431.3817 [patprovenzano@comcast.net](mailto:patprovenzano@comcast.net)

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Board of Commissioners. I have been attending these hearings for over 15 years, but using the trails for all of my life. I ride my horse, walk my dog, and ride my bike almost every weekend on Palos and Sag Valley FPD trails.

Over the past year I have had the honor of being part of Trail Watch. I am proud to be a volunteer, and have logged over 100 hours on trails. I have called the FPD Police five times to report a situation, and each time the police have been very responsive. I have contacted Mike Hart, Trails Manager, much more often to report a fallen tree on the trail, erosion issues, and other matters needing his attention. In spite of an excessive number of torrential rainstorms, the trails division worked very hard to restore damage as quickly as possible. We really appreciate them.

One of the great ideas from Mike Hart was the installation of actual tree stumps the size of a mounting block at 95<sup>th</sup> and Kean, to allow for dismounting and mounting on either side of 95<sup>th</sup> Street. The traffic at that intersection has grown significantly, and after a number of close calls I decided it was safer to hand walk my horse across the street. Now I no longer have to search for a downed tree to help me back up into the saddle. In addition, at a meeting hosted by Superintendent Randall for equestrians earlier this year, we discussed the traffic signal and how short the WALK sign is, and not knowing how much time before the light changes when DON'T WALK is flashing. Last weekend we were delighted to see the signal now contains a countdown that displays how many seconds left before the light changes. Great idea, even better implementation!

There is a significant improvement underway at the underpass near 93<sup>rd</sup> and LaGrange Road. These underpasses are notoriously difficult to keep water draining and mud from clogging the sewers. It appears that a great deal of engineering has gone into the redesign of the drainage there, and it is very much appreciated. You never want to go through a flooded concrete tunnel, nor one that is ice filled in the winter, whether on a horse, bike or on foot.

Over the past several years I have asked for improvements to be made to a bridge which did not have appropriate side rails to keep users on it in the event of an accident. I have been smack in the middle of it on horseback when a nine year old girl nearly ran her bicycle into us. I was delighted to receive an email yesterday from Adnan Nammari, Chief Construction Engineer that the work will begin this week.

Thank you, President Preckwinkle, for the \$6MM allocated to Capital Improvements, and also new jobs for conservation. My college student son participated in the Alternative Spring Break volunteer opportunity last March for a week, and it was a great experience for him. The Natural Resources staff was very welcoming, and he learned a great deal that week.

The Forest Preserves of Southern Cook County are priceless, and we are very fortunate to have them so accessible. Please continue to find the funds necessary to keep the trails safe, and enjoyable. And while you find new ways to bring more people in to use the FPD, please consider adding more trails. The existing trails are heavily travelled by many different users, some with competing interests, and safety is an issue.