

Mike Holohan

My name is Mike Holohan. I own a home in The Run. I am the pastor of a church in Oakland. And I am a spiritual advisor to students at Carnegie Mellon University. So my concerns with this project arise from three different roles: as a resident of The Run, as a worker in Oakland, and as a member of the campus community.

The first thing that I want to make clear is that from the beginning I approached this project with an open mind. I knew that the shuttle was not ideal for my neighborhood. But I was open to the possibility that the improvements to the park would outweigh the costs. However, as I have listened at these hearings over these last four years my opposition to the shuttle has steadily grown.

The core value that is undermined by the shuttle is that public money and public amenities should not primarily subsidize private profit. And as I understand the funding of this project, public money will build this road for a privately operated shuttle. We will pay for the road. A private organization will control it. And a non-profit corporation—a university that does not pay taxes—will benefit.

Not only will the road not benefit us, but it will take something from us. Adding the road will transform our existing park into a greenway park. This kind of linear park with transportation is exactly the style of park most likely to contribute to gentrification according to a study published last year in the journal *Urban Studies*. This means that rents will go up. Property taxes will go up. And the people living in Greenfield, Hazelwood, and Panther Hollow will be priced out of their homes.

As a campus spiritual advisor I often talk with students about their responsibility as members of an institution that wields considerable power and influence over the neighbors who make their homes here. That they should amplify the voices of neighbors whose opinions and needs have sometimes been cast aside for the sake of development.

And in this case I have yet to hear from any Hazelwood, Greenfield, or Oakland residents who are demanding a private shuttle between Oakland and Hazelwood Green. What I do hear loudly from my neighbors is a need for increased bus service.

So the bottom line here is: no public money for private shuttles. Instead, public money for public transit and public money for public parks. Thank you.