


SCEA

SEMINOLE COUNTY EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY

520 W. Lake Mary Boulevard, Suite 200 Sanford, Florida 32773 (407) 665-5601

MEMORANDUM

To: The Seminole County Expressway Authority
Commissioner Randall C. Morris, Chairman
Commissioner Gary L. Brender, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Daryl McLain
Commissioner Carlton Henley
Commissioner Grant Maloy
Commissioner Dick Van Der Weide
Commissioner Art Woodruff

From: Gary Johnson, Executive Director 

Date: February 6, 2003

Subject: Wekiva Basin Area Task Force's Final Report on a Proposed Wekiva Parkway

Attached for your review is a copy of the above referenced report, which was transmitted to Governor Bush and SCEA on January 15, 2003. The focus of staff's presentation at SCEA's special meeting on February 13, 2003, will be the Task Force's recommendations which would impact Seminole County and an overview of the process steps associated with the Task Force Report.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Several of the recommendations made by the Task Force could require future action by SCEA and/or the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), depending upon responses by the Governor or the Legislature to the Task Force:

Recommendation 2 calls for the "appropriate transportation agencies" to undertake environmental and engineering studies to determine the precise alignment based on the "Recommended Corridor for the Wekiva Parkway" adopted by the Task Force. In this recommendation SCEA is recognized as being the approval authority for the final alignment in Seminole County.

Recommendations 3 and 4 set guiding principles for design and construction which would apply to implementation of the Wekiva Parkway as a new expressway, which in Seminole County would be inconsistent with existing SCEA and BCC policy stating the proposed roadway could only be a 4-lane controlled access facility on the existing SR46 alignment.

Recommendation 5 requires the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), SCEA, and the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority (OOCEA) to "prepare a report to the Governor and Legislature of their joint recommendations for the appropriate transportation entity(ies) to operate the Wekiva Parkway." The actual implementation of this action is extremely unclear as to who would operate a toll road in Seminole County. The report would also include joint recommendations on a funding plan and "... legislation needed to secure the authority needed to acquire private lands or development rights within the Wekiva River Protection Area ... in excess of that which is required for right-of-way and associated roadway construction."

Recommendations 11 and 12 call for legislative action to establish a Wekiva River Springshed Protection Area and a Sector Planning Area to be established by the Administration Commission. Depending on the outcome of these efforts and if the Springshed Protection Area extends into Seminole County, BCC action could be necessary.

PROCESS:

In addition to the potential actions described in the above summary, the Task Force recommended an implementation plan (**Recommendation 17**):

- The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) meet with affected local governments. This step has been completed with staff.
- Local governments submit a report to DCA regarding consistency of their plans and regulations with the Task Force's recommendations. A copy of Seminole County's report (submitted to DCA) citing policy and Comprehensive Plan conflicts and inconsistencies is attached.
- DCA to compile the local government reports into a summary report on inconsistencies.
- DCA/ECFRPC to convene a meeting of all affected local governments and interest groups represented on the Task Force to review the DCA summary report, consider local government issues, and review and provide input regarding proposed legislative changes.
- The Florida Senate and House of Representatives to convene at least one field hearing in the Wekiva River Springshed Area.
- Draft legislation submitted to the Legislature. The Task Force recommended "by February 28, 2003."

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The most significant potential action items involving SCEA are the alignment studies and the joint report with FDOT and OOCEA. Currently no funding has been provided or identified to undertake these tasks. A legislative package may be considered during the upcoming session, which could include direction and/or funding for the project.

Several additional steps remain in the Task Force's implementation plan, and given the clear policy direction established by SCEA and the BCC on this issue, staff recommends no action by SCEA at this time. Staff will continue to monitor the implementation and legislative processes and participate with other agencies in the activities summarized above.

GJ:sb

c: Kevin Grace, County Manager
Rob Frank, Deputy County Manager
Sally Sherman, Deputy County Manager

Attachments

- (1) Wekiva Basin Area Task Force Final Report (Dated 1/15/2003)
- (2) Seminole County's Summary Report Submitted to DCA (Dated 1/31/2003)

AUTHORITY MEMBERS

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