

Good afternoon Commissioners,

I also thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this afternoon.

I am Charlie Shaw, a member of the Wekiva Parkway Community Coalition Executive Committee, and a home owner in Sylvan Lake Reserve. Additionally, I serve as the Coalition's webmaster, and have done the majority of the research into the evolution of the proposed expressway in Seminole County.

In our separate meetings with each of you over the past several weeks, we have gathered a general impression that there was some surprise as to the extent and depth of the community backlash against the proposed roadway alignment, and that this was not what you were hearing through the PD&E study process reports. From our research into the minutes of the past SCEA meetings, we knew this to be the case. This fundamental flaw in the process is one of the primary reasons that led us to form the Coalition. We wanted to take charge of the public communication process as it affects those citizens in the Coalition area, and provide you with an improved and more accurate view of the public concern. We also wanted to better convey the tone and depth of emotion of that concern, which was not, and is not, being captured through the PD&E Study process. Basically, it was our intention to provide a structured way to give the impacted communities a voice, and a mean of influencing a process which is threatening their way of life. We did so because we felt left out of having any meaningful input to the task forces, committees, and commissions implemented by the State, and which were and are over-weighted by environmentalist and Orange County – Orlando special interest groups.

I would like to briefly highlight some of the Coalition initiatives. Perhaps there are some 'information age' ideas here which can be adopted in future studies to make public input more meaningful and visible.

- Formed the WPCC Executive Committee
- Established a Coalition web site
- Did extensive research on the history of the Parkway proposal, and posted the results to the web site.
- Established an issues blog/discussion forum on the web site.
- Automated the PD&E Study Comment form, and posted it to the WPCC web site. This allows citizens to complete the form online, and submit via email directly to the SCEA members, the SCEA Executive Director, and to the PD&E Study team Public Information Coordinator. The process provided by the PD&E study only allowed for postal mail and fax. We feel this limited the potential number of forms submitted.
- Posted awareness signs throughout the Coalition area

- Distributed information flyers and petitions
- Conducted a Community information open house on 6 May 2008
- Held several meetings with the PD&E Study team
- Met individually with each of the SCEA members

In addition to the Wekiva Parkway PD&E Comment Forms you have received by email, we also initiated a petition drive. The total number of paper and online petitions received as of today is 359. Many of these petitions also contained comments, which were passed to you in a separate email yesterday. We will continue to directly update you on a periodic basis as we receive further input and the numbers grow.

In closing, we feel the process to gather meaningful public input, and to give due weight to the concerns of both individual citizens and communities was flawed. As a result, inappropriate decisions, based on faulty or incomplete information, may have been made as part of the process, from its inception in 2002, through the present. It's not too late to recover from these errors, to correct the process, and to reject this extreme proposal which threatens the communities in one of the most scenic parts of Seminole County.

Thank you for your support and action, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.