

Date: May 6, 2008  
Meeting: Seminole County Expressway Authority  
Subject: The GreeneWay and Wekiva Parkway in Seminole County

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Good afternoon Commissioners,

Thank you for allowing me to address the Seminole County Expressway Authority.

I am Dan Macaluso, the President of the Sylvan Lake Reserve (SLR) HOA and member of the Wekiva Parkway Community Coalition (WPCC). The WPCC consists of concerned Seminole County residents with homes, businesses, churches, schools and recreation facilities located in close proximity to the planned parkway route - the "Preferred Alternative" that is being recommended to the SCEA by CH2M Hill.

The WPCC was formed initially from an SLR initiative to gather information, assess impacts, review parkway alternatives, to reach out to others, and determine if they were as equally concerned and objectionable, as we were, to the "Preferred Alternative". The response we have gotten has been loud and clear - Do not thread-the-needle with this Alternative through our neighborhoods, businesses, churches, schools and recreational facilities.

While community information meetings have been conducted, we believe our concerns have not been fully heard by, or communicated to, our elected officials. In particular, we feel the level of our dissatisfaction, mistrust and anger brought about by the Preferred Alternative recommendation, and the process by which it has been reached, has not been communicated well, at all, through the PD&E study process.

The decision to approve the "study corridor" in Seminole County that was imposed upon us, was done so at almost the exact time as the Seminole County Commissioners were signing a Resolution, distributing a press release, and giving quotes to newspapers stating the exact opposite was going to happen. The words that we read and heard were - "The Seminole County Commission opposes any toll route OR expressway facility that crosses the Wekiva River into Seminole County" (Resolution 2002-R-188); and "There is no way Seminole County is going to allow them to bulldoze through existing communities" (Commission Daryl McLain).

What we read and heard was not ambiguous - it was very clear - it was our elected officials representing their constituents - their homes and what they bought into and invested their life savings on. We purchased our homes with the understanding of a much different placement of the planned parkway. We believe the seeming acquiescence of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to the 2003 Wekiva Basin Area Task Force recommendation to route the connector through Seminole County and directly through our neighborhoods, businesses, churches, schools and recreational facilities was

a breach of faith with its citizens, and a breaking of trust from what our elected officials have said and publicly committed to in the past.

This Preferred Alternative favors the environmentalist agenda, and future high tax revenues at the expense of existing home owners, businesses, churches, schools and recreational facilities. Now, as existing residents, we are being asked to choose the least worst "tweak-able" option - options that do not meet the definition of a Parkway, do not favor the use of existing right-of-ways, and are in direct conflict with the best interests of the local communities. We believe there are other alternatives that successfully protect the interests of all parties equally, satisfy the Parkway definition, and make better use of existing right-of-ways. We have proposed some of these alternatives and documented this information, in detail, when we met with each of you over the past 6 weeks, and are formally submitting these alternatives for the record and your consideration, today.

We are asking the SCEA to reject the "Preferred Alternative" proposed by CH2M Hill. We also strongly encourage the SCEA to direct CH2M Hill to work more closely with the residents, on an equal footing with the other parties, to be much more proactive in soliciting and fully and fairly reporting public comment – especially when it does not support the ‘approved solution’ – and to instead propose a solution that both fulfills the requirements of the original Executive Order (02-259), but which also protects the rural character of our neighborhoods, maintains a Parkway appearance, and does not divide our neighborhoods and communities, forever. Doing this will renew the Faith and Trust that we expect - that we need - in our elected representatives.

Thank you for your support and action.

Respectfully,

Daniel W. Macaluso  
Sylvan Lake Reserve, HOA President  
Wekiva Parkway Community Coalition, Executive Member