



Wekiva Parkway (SR 429)/SR 46 Realignment Project Development and Environment Study

Summary of Proposed Build Alternative Public Hearing Sessions October 26, 27 and 28, 2010

Prepared for:

Florida Department of Transportation, District 5

and

Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority

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**Summary of Proposed Build Alternative Public Hearing Sessions
Wekiva Parkway Project Development and Environment Study**

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Summary of Proposed Build Alternative Public Hearing Sessions Wekiva Parkway Project Development and Environment Study

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes the activities associated with the public hearing for the proposed build alternative identified in the Wekiva Parkway Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. Three public hearing sessions were sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 5 and the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority (Expressway Authority). The three public hearing sessions were held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the dates and at the locations identified below.

Public Hearing Dates and Locations:

- **Session 1 – Orange County (sponsored by the Expressway Authority)**
Tuesday, October 26, 2010
VFW Post No. 10147
519 South Central Avenue
Apopka, FL 32703

- **Session 2 – Lake County (sponsored by FDOT)**
Wednesday, October 27, 2010
Lake Receptions
4425 North Highway 19A
Mount Dora, FL 32757

- **Session 3 – Seminole County (sponsored by FDOT)**
Thursday, October 28, 2010
Sanford Civic Center
401 East Seminole Boulevard
Sanford, FL 32771

The public hearing sessions were conducted to afford local residents, property owners, business owners, government officials, media and other interested parties the opportunity to review and express their views concerning the proposed build alternative and the social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed project. These public hearing sessions presented formal opportunities for members of the public to review information about the Wekiva Parkway PD&E Study, to discuss that information with the project team, and to provide their comments for the public hearing record.

Project Team Attendees:

Representatives from the Expressway Authority, FDOT District 5, PBS&J, CH2M HILL, Quest Corporation of America Inc. (QCA), Kittelson & Associates Inc. (KAI), and HNTB were available at each of the public hearing sessions to answer questions. All project team representatives wore nametags. Project team representatives who attended included:

- Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority – Executive Director Mike Snyder, P.E., Joe Berenis, P.E., Lindsay Hodges, Michelle Maikisch and Glenn Pressimone, P.E.

- Florida Department of Transportation – District 5 Secretary Noranne Downs, P.E., Brian Stanger, P.E., Steve Olson, Michael Dollery, Jim Clark, Jorge Colon, Diane Taylor, Teresa Hensley and Laura Waters
- CH2MHILL (PD&E Study Consultant) – Mark Callahan, P.E., Dave Lewis, Kathleen Jorza, Sunsera Dalton, P.E., Ann Mulligan, P.E., Tara Jones, P.E., Melanie Koffler, Carol Barker, P.E., Scott Bear, P.E., Eddie Vidal, Eileen LaSeur, Ken Wooten, P.E. and Amy Windom, P.E.
- QCA (Public Information) – Brian Hutchings, Megan Olivera, Karen Kersey, Nicole Colone and Sharlene Lairscey
- PBS&J (Expressway Authority General Engineering Consultant) – Massoud Moradi, P.E., Keith Jackson, P.E. and Deborah Keeter
- KAI (Access Management Consultant) – Jack Freeman, P.E.
- HNTB (Traffic Consultant) – Josiah Banet, P.E. and Kacia Monts

2.0 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

A total of 18,320 public hearing notification letters were sent to residents, property owners, business owners, government officials and agencies, and other interested parties in and around the study corridor. Additionally, approximately 1,600 emails were sent to individuals from the Wekiva Parkway contact database. The letters provided information on the dates, times and locations of the public hearing sessions. A copy of the public hearing advertisement, a map of the hearing locations, project limits and other information about the hearing was included with the letter. Public hearing invitations were also sent to all local, state and federal elected officials within the project area. Examples of the notifications are included in Appendix A.

A breakdown of the recipient list is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Notification Letter Summary

| Recipient | Number of Invitations Sent to Recipients |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Elected and Appointed Officials | 76 |
| Federal, State and Local Agencies | 244 |
| Orange County Property Owners | 4,262 |
| Seminole County Property Owners | 6,076 |
| Lake County Property Owners | 4,658 |
| Other Interested Parties | 3,004 |
| Total | 18,320 |

Website:

On October 4, 2010, three weeks prior to the public hearing sessions, information about the upcoming hearing and PDFs of project documents including the Environmental Assessment were posted on the project website (located at www.wekivaparkway.com or www.ooccea.com). Information about the public hearing sessions was also posted on the FDOT Public Meetings notification website. The project website was updated throughout the process leading up to the public hearing sessions. The website included maps of the overall proposed build alternative, individual proposed build alternative maps for specific areas, the project schedule and a project information flyer. Following the final public hearing session on October 28, 2010, electronic copies of the display boards shown at the public hearing, a copy of the public hearing PowerPoint presentation and handout materials were also posted on the project website.

3.0 MEDIA NOTIFICATION

Legal advertisements were prepared and submitted to local print media outlets for publication well in advance of the public hearing. Advertisements were published in English and Spanish. In addition to information on the public hearing sessions, these advertisements provided Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for public review at eight locations in the study area. A list of the media outlets and advertisement run dates is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Legal Advertisements Summary

| Media Outlet | Run Date |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Florida Administrative Weekly | October 1, 2010 |
| Orlando Sentinel | October 3, 2010 and October 17, 2010 |
| El Sentinel | October 2, 2010 and October 16, 2010 |
| Apopka Chief | October 1, 2010 and October 15, 2010 |
| Apopka Planter | September 29, 2010 and October 13, 2010 |
| Sanford Herald | October 3, 2010 and October 17, 2010 |
| Daily Commercial | October 3, 2010 and October 17, 2010 |
| La Prensa | October 7, 2010 and October 21, 2010 |

Media releases were e-mailed or faxed to local media outlets on October 25, 2010 as described in Table 3. Copies of legal advertisements and media releases are provided in Appendix B.

Table 3. Media Notification Summary

| Outlet | Contact Method | Attended Meeting |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| RADIO | | |
| K92 FM | E-mail | |
| WDBO 580 AM | E-mail | |
| WMMO 98.9 FM | E-mail | |
| WTKS 104.1 FM | E-mail | |
| WOMX 105.1 | E-mail | |
| WMFE 90.7 | E-mail | |

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------|-----|
| | | |
| TELEVISION | | |
| Fox 35 WOFL | E-mail | Yes |
| WKMG - TV 6 CBS | E-mail | |
| Central Florida News 13 | E-mail | Yes |
| WESH -TV 2 NBC | E-mail | Yes |
| WFTV – TV 9 ABC | E-mail | Yes |
| | | |
| PRINT | | |
| Orlando Sentinel | E-mail | Yes |
| La Prensa | E-mail | |
| Sanford Herald | E-mail | |
| Apopka Chief/Planter | E-mail | Yes |
| Daily Commercial | E-mail | Yes |
| Leesburg Daily Commercial | E-mail | Yes |

4.0 AT THE PUBLIC HEARING SESSIONS

A total of 1,327 people signed-in at the three public hearing sessions held for the Wekiva Parkway PD&E Study, including 401 attendees in Orange County, 455 in Lake County, and 471 in Seminole County.

Public Hearing Format:

All three public hearing sessions followed the same format. The hearing sessions began with an informal open house for review of displays and documents, followed by a formal presentation and public comment period. Two identical sets of display boards showing the proposed build alternative, typical sections and other project information were set up around the perimeter of the room. Hearing attendees were greeted by receptionists and asked to sign-in prior to being directed to the county section of their interest. Attendees were given project information handouts and speaker request cards. Copies of the sign-in sheets are provided in Appendix C. Several tables and chairs were provided for attendees to rest and write comments. Comment forms and pens were provided. Persons requiring special accommodations were provided contact information in the public notice materials in order to be accommodated. No requests were made. Project team representatives assisted attendees and the local media by answering questions and addressing concerns about the alternative roadway alignments. Tables were provided for right-of-way and access personnel to answer questions and provide written information on the right-of-way acquisition process and access management. Brochures were also available to explain the traffic noise evaluation process and criteria for noise abatement. Several members of the project team were available as Spanish interpreters for those attendees who needed that assistance. At each session, a PowerPoint presentation with narration was presented to the attendees, followed by a public comment period. The presentation is provided in Appendix D.



Parking and Signage:

Ample parking was available to accommodate attendees, including those with disabilities. Signs were placed at major intersections and along roadways around the public hearing locations directing attendees to parking and the public hearing facility.

Handouts and Comment Forms:

Handouts with information on the Wekiva Parkway project were provided to attendees at the reception table. Handouts included project information and a map of the proposed build alternative. Comment cards were available throughout the meeting space and drop boxes were provided to collect responses. Two Court Reporters were present at all three hearing locations to record verbal comments. See Appendix E for copies of the public hearing handouts.

Displays:

Two sets of the following display boards were set up on easels around the perimeter of the meeting facility. Those display boards which depicted alternatives were on aerial base maps. The display boards ranged in size from 22" x 34" up to 34" x 56" for ease of viewing.

- Welcome Board
- Title VI/Title VIII Board
- Interpretive Services Board
- PD&E Study Schedule
- Project Study Area
- Initial Alternatives – Overall for Orange County, Lake County West, Lake County East and Seminole County

- Viable Alternatives – Overall for Orange County, Lake County West, Lake County East and Seminole County
- Proposed Build Alternative – Overall Layout
- Proposed Build Alternative – Orange County
- Proposed Build Alternative – Lake County West
- Proposed Build Alternative – Lake County East
- Proposed Build Alternative – Seminole County
- Proposed Build Alternative – Key Sheet and Concept Plans (Complete Set at 200 Scale)
 - Proposed Build Alternative Concept Plan Sheets (Orange County)
 - Proposed Build Alternative Concept Plan Sheets (Lake County West)
 - Proposed Build Alternative Concept Plan Sheets (Lake County West)
 - Proposed Build Alternative Concept Plan Sheets (Seminole County)
- Proposed Build Alternative – Typical Sections
 - Wekiva Parkway (Orange County – From US 441 North to Lake County)
 - SR 46 Reconstruction (Lake County West – From US 441 to East of Round Lake Road)
 - SR 46 Realignment (Lake County West – From East of Round Lake Road to Systems Interchange)
 - Wekiva Parkway (Lake County East – From Orange County to Neighborhood Lakes Interchange)
 - CR 46A Realignment (Lake County East – From SR 46 to Arundel Way)
 - Wekiva Parkway (Lake County East – From Neighborhood Lakes Interchange to East of Wekiva River)
 - Wekiva Parkway with Frontage Roads (Seminole County – From Wekiva River to West of Orange Boulevard)
 - Wekiva Parkway to I-4 (Seminole County – From SR 46 to SR 417/I-4 Interchange)
 - SR 46 Reconstruction (Seminole County – From West of Orange Boulevard to I-4)
- Proposed Build Alternative – Evaluation Matrix
- Proposed Build Alternative – Noise Analysis
- Traffic Boards
 - 2032 Proposed Build Alternative (Lake and Orange Counties)
 - 2032 Proposed Build Alternative (Seminole County)
 - 2032 No-Build Alternative (Lake and Orange Counties)
 - 2032 No-Build Alternative (Seminole County)
 - Existing Conditions (Lake and Orange Counties)
 - Existing Conditions (Seminole County)

PDFs of the graphics and information displayed on these boards are on a CD provided in Appendix F.

Documents:

Two hard copies of all engineering and environmental reports prepared in the PD&E Study were on display and readily available for review at the public hearing sessions. Those documents included the Environment Assessment, the Preliminary Engineering Report, and the Preliminary Plans. Preliminary right-of-way maps and property indexes were also available for review.

5.0 SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

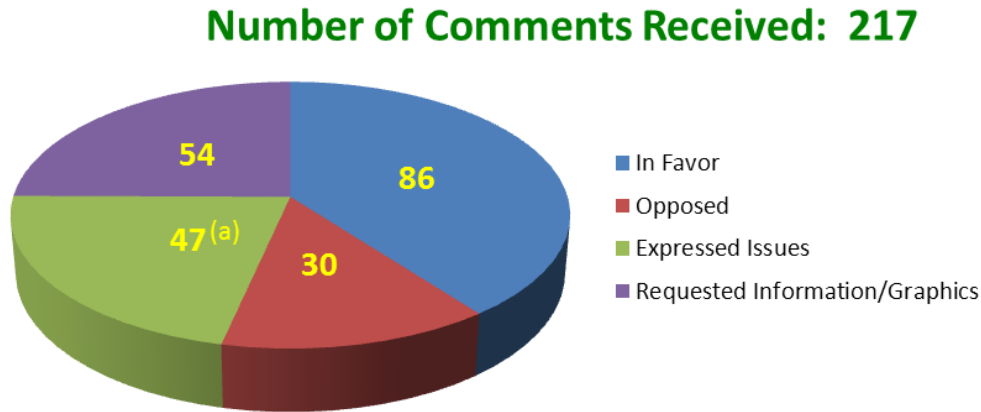
A total of 248 comments were submitted during the public hearing comment period (between approximately October 1, 2010 and November 8, 2010). That includes oral presentations provided at the public hearing sessions, comment forms submitted at the public hearing sessions and emails and mail received during the public hearing comment period. Of that total, 31 duplicate comments* (such as attendees providing comments at all three meetings, faxing and then mailing a comment card, etc.) were received. Since those comments were the same or very similar, we have included only one of those comments in the following summary calculations. For example, if the same person spoke in favor of the project at each of the three public hearing sessions, the three comments are included in the 248 total above, but only one of those comments is included in the "In favor" total in the Figure 1 chart below.

Of the comment forms received, 12 were submitted at the Orange County public hearing, 21 in Lake County, 53 in Seminole County, 39 were recorded by the court reporters (of these, 34 were speaker comments provided after the formal presentation and 5 were given directly to the court reporter), 36 were received by mail, 1 verbal comment was received by a member of the study team, and 70 were received via email. In addition, the Wekiva Parkway Community Coalition (WPCC) submitted a petition of 543 individuals objecting to the proposed build alternative and advocating an alternative proposed by the coalition**.

The comments suggest general support for or acceptance of the Wekiva Parkway Proposed Build Alternative. A total of 86 comments were received that specifically noted the project was needed and should be completed as soon as possible, while 30 responses expressed opposition to the project.

Figure 1 shows a general overview of the comments received from all of the counties. A total of 86 comments suggested or approved the proposed build alternative and 30 were opposed. A total of 47 comments were received requesting specific changes to the proposed parkway but did not state a position either for or against, while 54 requested information and/or graphics. An analysis of these preferences can be found in Section 6.0 Comment Analysis. "Other" represents an array of comments touching on issues such as traffic signal requests, funding concerns and requests to meet with the project team. See Appendix G for a spreadsheet of all comments received during the public hearing process as well as responses provided. In Appendix H, a CD is provided that contains the transcripts from the three public hearing sessions. All responses received during the public hearing process were responded to by December 14, 2010.

Figure 1: Comment Summary from All Counties



Comment Period October 1, 2010 - November 8, 2010

(a) For example: some who provided comments did not express opposition to the project, but requested modifications/refinements in the area near them.

*This chart does not reflect duplicate comments (31).

**In addition, the study team received a petition from the Wekiva Parkway Community Coalition (WPCC)

The following table outlines the comments received by county. The vast majority of those with general comments expressed support for the roadway. Many of those expressing support for the roadway cited benefits that the road would bring such as: improved access for the region; better protection for wildlife in the environmentally sensitive Wekiva River Basin area; reduced traffic congestion on SR 46; and greater employment opportunities. The majority of those expressing opposition to the roadway stated concerns about roadway noise in quiet rural areas and worries that their property values would erode with the construction of a new roadway near their property (a central concern in Seminole County). In Lake and Seminole Counties, especially in areas where SR 46 would be realigned or removed, concerns over access were expressed (having to go out of the way to make local trips or access the parkway, fear that emergency vehicle response times might be impacted with a limited access roadway system, etc.). Environmental concerns were also a focus in Seminole County. Several property owners requested that their property be purchased during the right-of-way acquisition process.

Table 4. Comment Summary by County+

| | Orange County | Lake County | Seminole County | Total |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Access Concerns | 1 | 6 | 4 | 11 |
| Noise Issues | 2 | 5 | 10 | 17 |
| General Comments | 11 | 13 | 40 | 64 |
| Support Project | 10 | 10 | 28 | 48 |
| Oppose Project | 1 | 3 | 12 | 16 |
| Request Info/Maps | 4 | 7 | 8 | 19 |
| Drainage Concerns | | | 5 | 5 |
| Environmental Concerns | | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Aesthetics/Design | | | 3 | 3 |
| Other | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Alignment | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Property Value Concerns | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| Property Acquisition | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Request for Trail | | 1 | | 1 |
| Keep SR 46 Open | | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Total | 21 | 43 | 88 | 152* |

*It should be noted that the number of comments exceeds the number of comment forms as many forms covered multiple topics.
 +Note that the Comment Summary by County table only reflects comments received at the public hearings, not comments received via mail or email.

5.1 Orange County Session Overview

General comments expressed in Orange County are depicted in Figure 2. Despite the strong turnout at the Orange County Public Hearing Session, only 18 comments were submitted at the meeting (12 written and 6 verbal). Of those, 11 expressed support for the proposed build alternative while 1 stated that they were against the proposed project (see Figure 3). Noise abatement (2 comments) was stated as a concern followed by property de-valuation and concerns over limited access (1). Three requests for additional information were also received.

Figure 2. Chart of Comments Received from Orange County

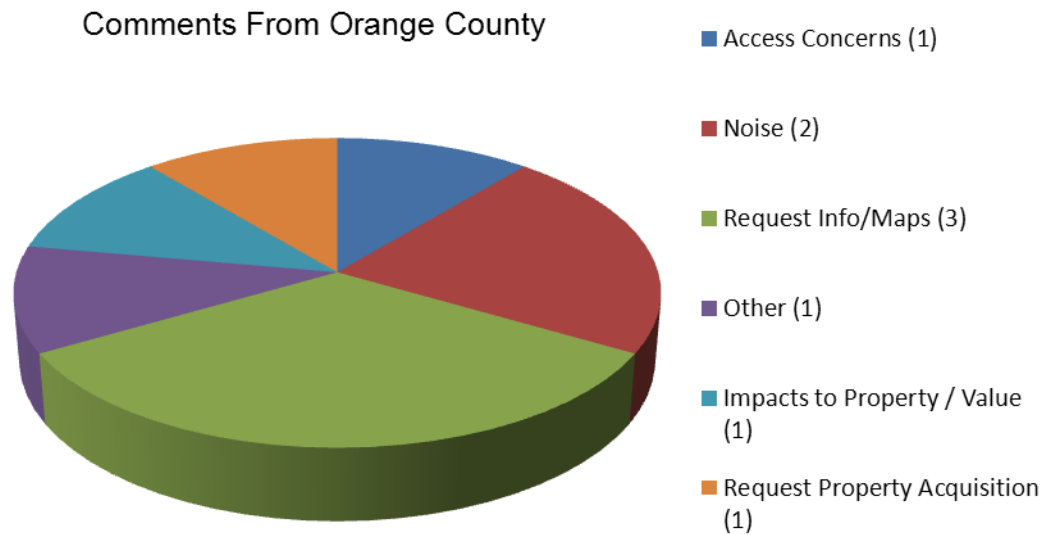
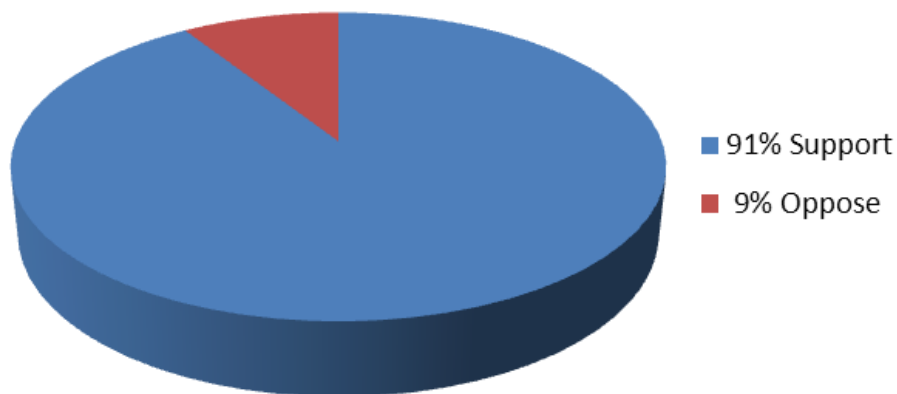


Figure 3. Chart of Support and Opposition from Public Hearings, Orange County



5.2 Lake County Session Overview

General comments expressed in Lake County are depicted in Figure 4. A total of 34 comments were submitted at the Lake County Public Hearing Session (21 written and 13 verbal). Of those, 10 expressed support for the proposed build alternative while 3 stated they were against the proposed project (see Figure 5). Access concerns (6 comments) and noise abatement concerns (5 comments) were submitted. The possible impact to property value (1) and concern over the alignment (1) were also noted in Lake County. Four comments urged that SR 46 remain open as-is. There were also several (7) requests made for additional information such as requests for copies of project maps.

Figure 4. Chart of Comments Received from Lake County

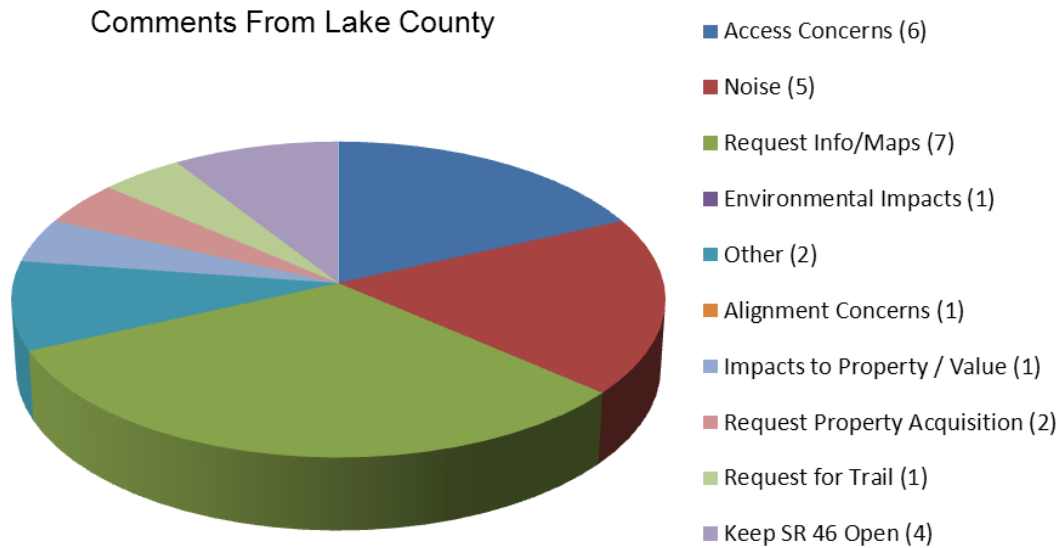
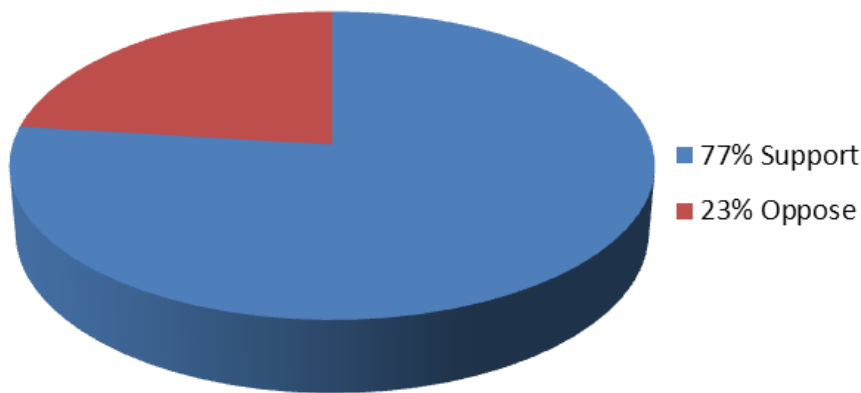


Figure 5. Chart of Support and Opposition from Public Hearings, Lake County



5.3 Seminole County Session Overview

As shown in Figure 6, a total of 73 comments were submitted at the Seminole County Public Hearing Session (53 written and 20 verbal). Of those, 28 expressed support for the proposed build alternative while 12 stated they were against the proposed project (see Figure 7). Noise abatement concerns were a primary concern with 10 comments received, followed by drainage and environmental concerns (5 each). The possible impact to property value also ranked as a concern for those in Seminole County (5 comments) as did concerns about access (4 comments). Some of the comments (8) were requests for additional information such as copies of project maps.

Figure 6. Chart of Comments Received from Seminole County

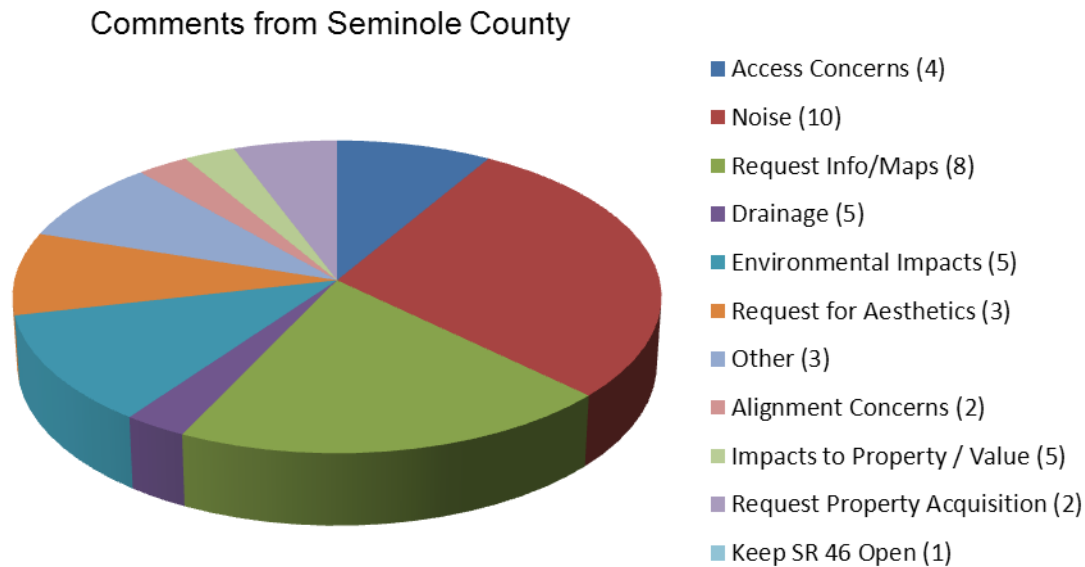
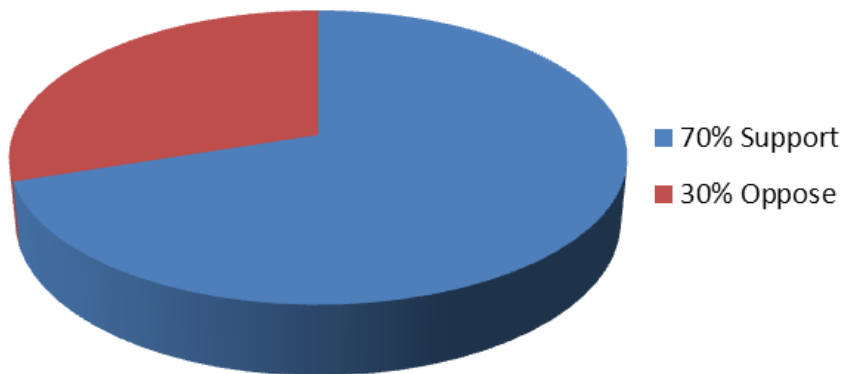


Figure 7. Chart of Support and Opposition from Public Hearings, Seminole County



6.0 COMMENT ANALYSIS

A comprehensive analysis of the public comments (with the exception of the WPCC petition) showed support for the proposed build alternative and a desire for the project to proceed as quickly as possible.

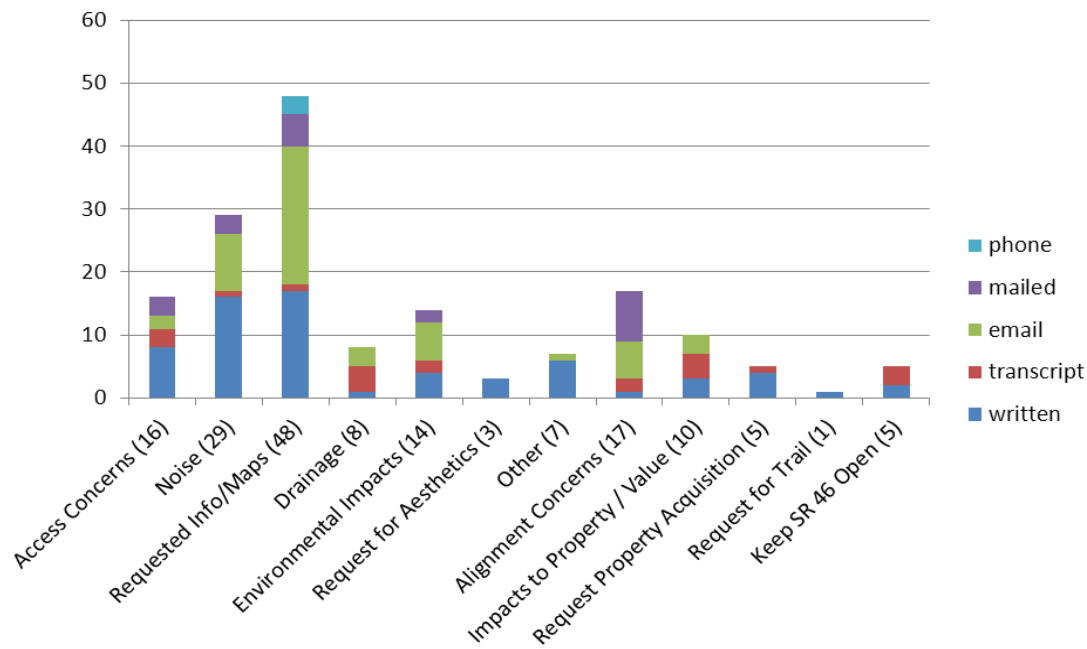
Of the total number of comments received (248)*, most commonly noted were comments regarding roadway noise and requests for noise abatement (29 comments). Concerns over the proposed build alternative and/or requesting alignment changes (17 comments) and how the project may impact property value (10 comments) were concerns expressed in all three counties. Despite the proposed project receiving strong support from the environmental community, 14 comments were received stating concerns over how the project might have a negative impact on the environment and wildlife. These concerns included the

desire to protect wildlife, ensuring the acquisition of conservation lands, wetland and water quality concerns, protecting the rural character of particular areas and fears of encroachment on existing public lands. Concerns that the elevated parkway may cause flooding issues with nearby properties were noted (8 comments).

There were 54 overall comments requesting additional information such as copies of specific display boards, or extra copies of the public hearing handouts.

Public comments were received in a variety of methods: written comments provided at the public hearings, verbal comments made to a court reporter during the public hearing sessions, verbally communicated to the attendees during the public comment period after the formal presentation, email, mail, and fax. The public comment period opened with the first notice on October 1, 2010 and closed as noticed November 8, 2010. The following graph shows the various methods by which comments were received and the various concerns stated in the comments.

Figure 8. Graph of How Comments Were Received

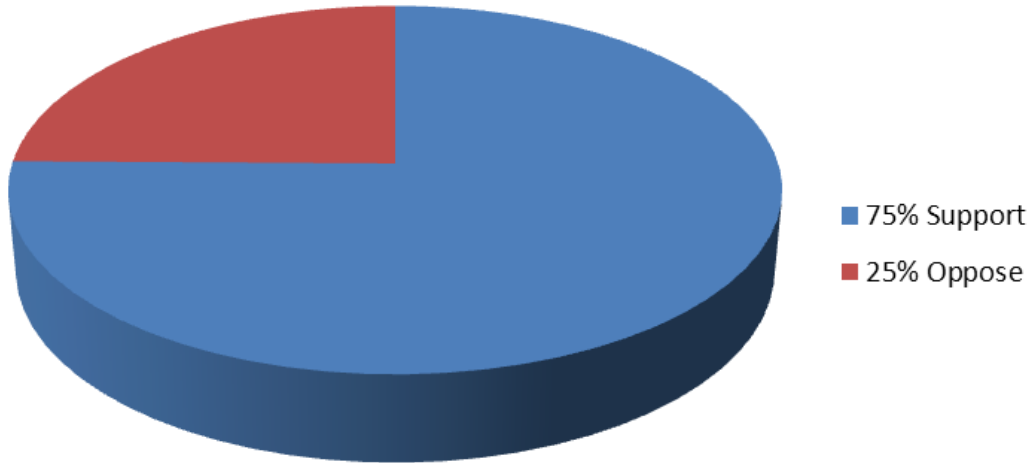


*It should be noted that the summary of comments includes numerous citizens that submitted multiple topics.

7.0 CONCLUSION

Figure 9 depicts the overall support and opposition to the Wekiva Parkway proposed build alternative taken from all comments received during the comment period. The analysis clearly shows overwhelming support for both the parkway and the proposed build alternative.

Figure 9. Chart of Overall Support and Opposition from Public Hearings



For more information about the
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