

Public Information Meeting Summary Report

Wekiva Trail

Project Development and Environment Study – Segment 1
From Tremain Street to Hojin Street

Lake County, Florida

Financial Project Number: 430975-1-28-01
May 2016

Submitted to:

Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization
1616 South 14th Street (US 27)
Leesburg, Florida 34748



Submitted by:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes the public involvement activities associated with the public information meeting for Segment 1 of the Wekiva Trail Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. The proposed improvements extend from Tremain Street to Hojin Street in Lake County. The Financial Project ID Number is 430975-1-28-01.

Meeting Date and Location:

The public information meeting was sponsored by Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), in conjunction with Lake County and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on the date and at the location identified below.

Thursday, March 17, 2016
5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
The Mount Dora Community Building
520 North Baker Street
Mount Dora, Florida 32757

The public information meeting was conducted for interested parties to review the proposed improvements and have the opportunity to express their views concerning Segment 1 of the Wekiva Trail.

Project Team Attendees:

Representatives were available to answer questions and respond to the public's comments and concerns. The project team representatives who attended the meeting included:

Lake-Sumter MPO

Mike Woods – Project Manager
T.J. Fish

Lake County

Jim Stivender
Noble Olasimbo

Florida Department of Transportation

Chris Rizzolo

City of Mount Dora

Mayor Nick Girone

Inwood Consulting Engineers

David Graeber – Consultant Project Manager
Ali Alsaffar
Mandy Loughran

2.0 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Invitations:

There were 528 invitations sent to property owners, government officials, and other interested parties. The invitations described the project and provided information about the public meeting location, date, and time. Public meeting invitation letters were e-mailed to all elected officials, appointed officials, agency officials and task force stakeholders in the project area. Public meeting invitation letters were mailed to property owners and other interested stakeholders. Copies of the letters are included in *Appendix A*. A breakdown of the recipient list is provided in *Table 1* and complete mailing lists are provided in *Appendix B*.

Table 1 - Invitation Summary

Recipient	Number of Recipients	Date Invitation Sent
Elected Officials	22	February 29, 2016 via e-mail
Appointed Officials	23	February 29, 2016 via e-mail
Agency Officials	12	February 29, 2016 via e-mail
Task Force Stakeholders	58	February 29, 2016 via e-mail
Property Owners	405	February 26, 2016 via mail
Other Interested Stakeholders	8	February 26, 2016 via mail
Total	528	

Advertisements:

One advertisement was prepared and submitted to the *Mount Dora Citizen* newspaper and *Mount Dora Buzz* online news website. The advertisement was published in the *Mount Dora Citizen*, in the form of an article, on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. It was also published on the *Mount Dora Buzz* website on March 1. In addition to the newspaper advertisement, a public meeting notice was posted in the *Florida Administrative Register* on Thursday, March 10, 2016 in Volume 42/48. Copies of the advertisements are in *Appendix C*.

Press Release:

A press release was sent to the local media for immediate release on Monday, March 14, 2016. The release and media list can be found in *Appendix D*.

3.0 AT THE PUBLIC MEETING

Parking and Signage:

Parking was available to accommodate all of the meeting attendees, including the disabled.

Meeting Format:

The public meeting began with an open house format at 5:30 P.M. Meeting attendees were greeted by a receptionist, asked to sign in, and provided with a comment form and

project newsletter. A total of 52 people signed in at the public meeting. The sign-in sheets can be found in *Appendix E*. Project team representatives assisted attendees by answering questions and addressing concerns about the proposed improvements. Following the open house session was a brief PowerPoint presentation at 6:15 P.M. given by the consultant project manager, David Graeber. Following the presentation a second open house period began. The meeting concluded shortly after 7:00 P.M. The PowerPoint presentation is shown in *Appendix F*.

Displays:

An overall Wekiva Trail display board, Segment 1 alternatives display board, Segment 1 recommended alternative display board were accessible by all. In addition, a welcome board and schedule board were on display. Copies of the meeting graphics can be found in *Appendix G*.

4.0 SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

The Lake-Sumter MPO received one comment before the meeting, nine comments were submitted at the meeting, and no additional comments were received after the meeting. See below for a brief summary of the general comments made and the number of times the comment was made. Full detailed comments per commenter can be found in *Appendix H*.

Comment Summary

Support the project (3)

What is the FPID number for the Wekiva Trail PD&E Study – Segment 1? (1)

(Regarding extending the trail west through the City of Mount Dora)

The 7th Avenue corridor would be better because of the 4-way stop at Donnelly, 7th Avenue is already partially one way (west), and it passes by two landmarks of the city. Residents park on 8th Avenue as opposed to 7th Avenue (1)

Suggest restoring US 441 railroad bridge as it would have appeared, with “Atlanta Coast Line” written on the side of the bridge (1)

Hoping for a sidewalk along US 441 in Mount Dora instead of a bike lane shoulder because of safety concerns. (1)

Request thoughtful placement of a trail head on Eastern side, going toward Sorrento and Round Lake Road on “other” side of US 441 from Downtown Mount Dora. Ideal scenario – co-locate trail head on private property (i.e. Grantham property) that could more easily accommodate a multi-use. Protect Wolf Branch Preserve – especially recharge/sink hole. It should not be accessible at all. (1)

Interested in trading property. (1)

Request for contacts for anyone interested in opening a bicycle shop in Mount Dora. (1)

Bought property/ warehouse for added value of the railroad. Concerned the trail will negatively impact the value of my property/ warehouse. What provision do you have to compensate me for loss of value? (1)

5.0 CONCLUSION

For more information about the public meeting for Segment 1 of the Wekiva Trail PD&E Study, please contact:

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