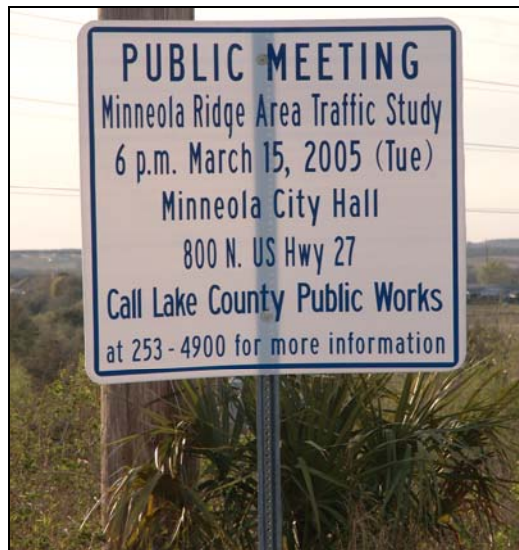


## CHAPTER 4: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

### **Public Meeting**

Informing the public of the future transportation needs was important in light of the significant changes that will result to the transportation network in the Minneola Ridge area. A public meeting was conducted to inform the public of the findings and recommendations of the Lake Minneola Ridge Area Traffic Study. This public meeting was advertised to take place on Tuesday, March 16, 2005 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Minneola City Hall. Due to overwhelming public attendance, this meeting continued to 10:30 pm to allow for the ability to obtain public comments from each member of the public that identified a desire to speak. Appendix 4-A provides a sample of the Public Meeting flyer that was widely distributed. The Public Meeting was also advertised in local newspapers and the County's Website. The Lake County Public Works department also posted signs similar to one depicted in Figure 4-1 throughout the study area announcing the Public Meeting.



**Figure 4-1:** Signs were placed throughout the study area informing residents of the area of the Public Meeting.

The Public Meeting included a lobby of museum style graphics of the project similar to the figures provided in this report. Members of the public were encouraged to review these materials prior to the formal presentation to the public. Examples of the public's review of the board materials is provided in Figures 4-2 and 4-3. Members of the County staff and consultant team were available to answer questions from the public.



Figures 4-2 and 4-3: Members of the public reviewed boards of information prior to the formal presentation.

A formal presentation to the public began near the scheduled start of the Public Meeting. This presentation a brief review of the study methodology, but primarily focused on the anticipated development that is forecasted to occur and the transportation network that will be needed to address the future demands. Both alternatives were presented to the public and the network differences and forecasted travel demand were compared. Figure 4-4 highlights part of the presentation to the public.



Figure 4-4: A formal presentation of the study results were provided to the public.

At the conclusion of the formal presentation, attendees who wished to comment on the study were allowed to speak. Due to the volume of speakers, the meeting was extended approximately 2 hours to allow for speakers to conclude there remarks.

## **Public Comment**

When entering the Public Meeting, participants were provided a comment card to allow for them to provide written comments regarding their concerns relative to the information that was being presented at the meeting. Appendix 4-B contains a sample comment card. Extensive written comments were provided and these comments are summarized in detail in Appendix 4-C. The extensive public comments from the speakers following the formal presentation are summarized in detail in Appendix 4-D.

In general, the public comments covered a wide range of topics. Many of these topics did not directly relate to the transportation issues or demands that were presented in the workshop. A large majority of the comments related directly to concerns about growth in the area and the potential to destroy the existing character and quality of life in the area that is rural. Many participants were surprised to learn about the number of proposed developments and the quality of development that was already approved. Concerns were also addressed relative to adequate classroom space and the proposed location of future school sites, specifically the proposed high school site to be located at the northwest quadrant of Sullivan Road and North Grassy Lake Road. Significant concerns were identified relative to the appropriateness of increasing traffic demands on Sullivan Road due to impacts on residents and the unique topography that the roadway traverses.

In general both the written and spoken public comments can be summarized as follows:

- Land Use Issues
  - Desire to Preserve Rural Character
  - Encourage Smart Growth
  - Desire for Low Densities
  - Concerns over Rate/Quantity of Growth
  - Concerns over reduced Property Values
- Transportation Issues
  - Concerns over Alignments and Location of Roadways (Especially Sullivan Road)
  - Safety (Increased travel on rural roadways)
  - Bike Lanes and Sidewalks (Desire to have facilities constructed when roads are improved)
  - Funding (Costs to construct the required roadway network)
- Other Issues
  - Deficient School Capacity
  - School Site Locations (Especially the High School Site)
  - Water Supply
  - Wildlife Impacts

It was beyond the scope of this study to address the land use and community character concerns that were raised from the public meeting. Specific roadway alignment issues should be addressed during the preliminary alignment studies conducted for specific corridors.