

# Effingham County Transportation Advisory Board

601 North Laurel Street

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• Transportation@EffinghamCounty.org

## Committee Members

**F. Lamar Allen**

*School Board, Chairman*

**Brett Bennett**

*City of Springfield, Vice-Chairman*

**Tommy Blewett, P.E.**

*Secretary*

**Dr. Franklin Goldwire**

*City of Guyton*

**Chap Bennett**

*Effingham County  
Industrial Development  
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*City of Rincon*

**Phil Kieffer**

*Effingham County*

**Alan Zipperer**

**Supporting Staff**

**Brian Adlerstein**

*Transportation Engineer*

**Brett Bennett**

*Springfield City  
Manager*

**Steve Davis**

*County Administrator*

**John A. Henry**

*Effingham County IDA*

**Randy Shearouse**

*Superintendent, BOE*

This board is supported by the staff of the Effingham County Board of Commissioners and the cities of Guyton, Rincon, and Springfield, IDA, and BOE.



**January 16, 2018**

Transportation Advisory Meeting

**Present:** Mrs. Ann Purcell, Mr. Brad Saxon, Mr. Brian Adlerstein, Mr. Byron Cowart, Mr. Lamar Allen, Mr. Phil Kieffer, Mr. Steve Davis, Mr. Steve Price, Mr. Tommy Blewett, Mr. Tre Wilkins, Mr. Troy Pittman, Mrs. Wykoda Wang.

**Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lamar Allen at 8:31 A.M.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda for this meeting was unanimously not able to be approved because there were not enough members for a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the September 19th and November 21st meeting were unable to be approved because there were not enough members for a quorum.

## Old Business:

### Item 1: Discussion of On-Going Transportation Projects

#### GDOT Projects

Mr. Byron Cowart discussed the status of on-going transportation projects. The final plans for I-16 @ CR 310/Old River Rd.-Interchange have been submitted and the project is working towards environmental certification. Right of way activities for Effingham Parkway are on going. The concept report for the roundabout at SR 17 @CR 156/Blue Jay Rd. has been approved. The concept report for SR 119 @ Ogeechee River & Overflow Bridges has been approved and environmental is ongoing.

Paving work for the resurfacing of 7.227 miles on SR 119 from CS 616/Crawford St. to south of CR 104/Priester Rd. is complete. Utility relocations are ongoing for the roundabout at SR 17 @ SR 119. Milling and plant mix resurfacing on 12.159 miles of I-95 from North of I-16 to South of the Savannah River began in July and is about 45% complete.

The cost of constructing the Fort Howard and Old Augusta rd. roundabout was discussed. Mr. Troy Pittman stated the project can be value engineered to lower the price or decrease the scope of the project. Mr. Steve Davis suggested the use of Grace Lane in order to scale the project down by using it solely as a south bound lane. His reasoning for this was due to the roadway utilizing an existing GAB base and is already owned by the County. Mr. Steve Davis also offered to install a stoplight depending upon the cost of construction. Mr. Troy Pittman stated a traffic signal will not work as well as a traffic roundabout. Mr. Steve Davis stated a new school will be opening near the roundabout in August and this will greatly increase traffic. so ulterior solutions should be considered before then in case of the unlikelihood of the roundabout not being completed by then. Mrs. Wykoda Wang inquired about the source of funding for this project. Mr. Steve Davis replied the majority of funds would come from the Safety LMIG grant. Mr. Troy Pittman stated this grant will no longer be offered in the future. Mrs. Ann Purcell offered that the federal budget, which has not yet been approved by Congress, has fallen behind in reimbursing the State for several projects which

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could severely limit future grants that GDOT will be able to provide.

## Effingham County Projects

Mr. Brian Adlerstein discussed the status of County transportation projects. Resurfacing various roads in Effingham County through an LMIG grant is nearly complete. Nellie Road has not received any new complaints since the County asked various GPS companies to update their maps. Various Norfolk Southern Rail Road crossing improvements are set to be let this month. The Honeyridge Road bridge replacement is still awaiting upon the County Commissioners to determine a proper course of action. No complaints have been received in regards to signal timings for A Diverging Diamond Interchange since the previous TAB meeting.

Other projects not on the list were discussed by the board. Mr. Troy Pittman stated interim improvements are being considered to help traffic flow along HWY 30 and I-95. Mr. Steve Davis offered that conversations have taken place to discuss the potential benefits of providing a commuter bus GRTA, specific to assist transportation for Gulf Coast employees. GRTA stated they do not wish to branch outside of Atlanta at this time but are considering the proposal. Mr. Steve Davis stated the intersection at McCall Road and Blue Jay Road is not included in the Effingham Parkway project. The design for this intersection will need to be bid out for to ensure that this intersection ties into Effingham Parkway. Mr. Troy Pittman stated they were holding off on improvements within that area until they observed how Effingham Parkway improved traffic. Mr. Steve Davis stated if no change is made at the intersection than issues similar to what is occurring at Fort Howard and Old Augusta will develop. Mrs. Ann Purcel stated the intersection at McCall Rd. and Blue Jay Rd. was planned to become a roundabout at one point, however the County decided to move the roundabout to Midland Rd.

Mr. Tre Wilkins inquired Mr. Brad Saxon upon the intermittent activities to take place at the intersection at Blue Jay Road and Midland Road. Mr. Tre Wilkins offered that there were three wrecks within one week since the last TAB meeting. Mr. Brad Saxon stated the roundabout is the only permanent solution, and everything that can be accomplished with signage has already been done. Mr. Brad Saxon stated other temporary measures are being looked into, and his ideas were delivered to Atlanta for approval last week. Mr. Brad Saxon offered to utilize a temporary roundabout which may be produced via a coordinated effort between contractors and GDOT. He stated it will require a few months to complete the temporary roundabout. Mr. Brad Saxon stated it takes four months for a quick response project, which commenced when the paperwork was turned in last week. Mr. Tre Wilkins also inquired upon a new industry located on Old River Road that hauls 80-220 trucks a week. Mr. Tre Wilkins stated the truck drivers are receiving poor directions from GPS which causes them to take a wrong turn on to Old River Road, which does not allow enough space to make a U-turn. Mr. Tre Wilkins wants to improve signage in this area and other areas as well to prevent this from happening and requested assistance on placing the correct signage within the GDOT right of way. Mr. Brad Saxon offered his assistance.

## **New Business:**

No new business was discussed.

## **Adjournment:**

Alan Zipperer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lamar Allen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 A.M.

