

# Effingham County Transportation Advisory Board

601 North Laurel Street

• Springfield, Ga. 31329 • (912) 754-2111 • Transportation@EffinghamCounty.org

## Committee Members

**F. Lamar Allen**  
Chairman

**Brett Bennett**  
Vice-Chairman

**Tommy Blewett, P.E.**  
Secretary

**Dr. Franklin Goldwire**  
City of Guyton

**Barton Alderman**  
City of Springfield

**Ken Lee**  
City of Rincon

**Phil Kieffer**  
Effingham County

**Alan Zipperer**

**Supporting Staff**  
**Morgan Chamberlain**  
Transportation Engineer

**Brett Bennett**  
Springfield City  
Manager

**Toss Allen, P.E.**  
County Administrator

**John A. Henry**  
Effingham County IDA

**Wesley Corbitt**  
Rincon City Manager

**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.



May 19, 2015

## Transportation Advisory Meeting

**Present:** Mr. Lamar Allen, Mr. Tommy Blewett, Ms. Ann Purcell, Mr. Melvin Johnson, Mr. Wendall Kessler, Mr. Brett Bennett, Mr. Wesley Corbitt, Mr. John Henry, Rep. Bill Hitchens, Ms. Morgan Chamberlain, and Mr. Toss Allen

**Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:36 a.m. by Mr. Lamar Allen.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was amended to include the election of a new chairman as the second item of new business. A motion was then made by Mr. Blewett and seconded by Mr. Henry to approve the amended agenda. The motion was carried by all.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mr. Kessler to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015 meeting and seconded by Mr. Blewett. The motion was carried by all.

## Old Business:

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

Mr. Johnson reported no significant changes to the ongoing GDOT projects in the county. There are no new updates regarding the SR 275 @ CR 307/Rincon-Stillwell Road roundabout nor the roundabout at CR 156/Blue Jay Rd./Blanford Rd. @ CR 143/CR 176/McCall Rd.

### County Projects

Mr. Toss Allen reported that the county has put out to bid this year's resurfacing and restriping bids. The resurfacing bid is expected to go before the board in June. The Blue Jay-McCall realignment remains in progress, and the Courthouse Road Extension redesign is also in progress. Mr. Allen additionally reported that the Effingham Parkway is moving forward, with the ecological studies and field work underway. Some minor rerouting is being considered. The estimated start date is 2017. The county, which will be included in the CORE MPO with one vote, presented the current information on the Effingham Parkway Project to the CORE MPO last month.

Ms. Purcell thanked the county for its participation in the parkway project.

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## **New Business:**

### **Item 1: Discussion of Minutes from the PIOH**

Mr. Toss Allen discussed the comments received from the March 18th Public Information Open House about the Effingham County project. A total of 117 people attended the PIOH. 38 comments were received: 20 opposed, 10 in support, 4 uncommitted, and 4 conditionally supporting. Major concerns were whether or not the project would alleviate traffic congestion as well as concerns about environmental and community impact. No further questions were posed by the committee.

### **Item 2: Election of New Board Chairman**

The election process was run by Mr. Toss Allen, a non-voting member. Mr. Bennett nominated Mr. Lamar Allen for Chairman; Mr. Blewett seconded. The motion to elect Mr. Allen carried. Mr. Brett Bennett was then nominated for vice-chairman. The motion carried.

### Other New Business

Ms. Purcell spoke about the double-diamond interchange. A contractor is in place, with construction expected in early 2016. With traffic fatalities on the rise in Georgia, currently at an increase of 25 % this year, and especially in the Jesup district at 38%, GDOT is pushing a "Drive Alert, Arrive Alive" awareness campaign to discourage cell phone use, encourage seatbelt use, and encourage alert driving. There has been a 60% increase in single car accidents with fatalities.

Ms. Purcell additionally reported that the groundbreaking for the I-95 Welcome Center will be on May 26, 2015 at 11 A.M. The stop will remain functional during construction. There was a discussion of the changes in fuel taxes and possible impacts on funding, as well as mention of the Transportation Funding Act that Ms. Purcell says will help support Georgia roads.

Mr. Johnson discussed the county's status as an MS4 Phase II permittee and the Georgia DOT's involvement in the mapping of structures. Mr. Toss Allen reported that the mapping of MS4 structures within Effingham County's urbanized area is complete, and an Enforcement Response Plan is underway.

### **Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Blewett and carried by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 A.M.