

# Effingham County Transportation Advisory Board

601 North Laurel Street

• Springfield, GA 31329

• (912) 754-2111

• [Transportation@EffinghamCounty.org](mailto: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 Authority*

**Ken Lee**

*City of Rincon*

**Phil Kieffer**

*Effingham County*

**Alan Zipperer**

**Supporting Staff**

**Wesley Sherrod, P.E.**

*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



**November 17, 2015**

Transportation Advisory Meeting

**Present:** Mr. Lamar Allen, Mr. Tommy Blewett, Mr. Brett Bennett, Ms. Maggie Yoder, Rep. Bill Hitchens, Mr. Rick Lott, Ms. Wykoda Wang, Mrs. Ann Purcell, Mr. Wendall Kessler, Mr. Will Murphy, Mr. Chap Bennett, Mr. Osman Bhatt, Mr. Troy Pittman, Mr. Wesley Sherrod, and Mr. Toss Allen.

**Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:38 a.m. by Mr. Lamar Allen.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with motion made by Mr. Alan Zipperer and second by Mr. Tommy Blewett.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Allen made one correction to the minutes for September's meeting to reflect that under new business, the House Bill in discussion was labeled HB 70, not 170. No other corrections were made. The minutes were then approved with a motion by Mr. Blewett and a second by Mr. Zipperer.

**Old Business:**

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

### GDOT Projects

Ms. Yoder discussed the status of on-going transportation projects. The I-16 interchange at Old River Road is on schedule, with final design and final bridge design due by late winter. The preliminary design is underway for the Effingham Parkway, with work on the survey database and horizontal and vertical alignments. Public comments about the project have been addressed. The ecological and archaeological environmental studies are also underway. Final design plans for the roundabout at SR 17 and SR 119 are almost complete (95%), with 100% finalized plans anticipated in the spring of 2016. The project is anticipated to let in the late summer of 2016. A public information open house took place at 5pm on October 8, 2015 at Ebenezer Middle School for the roundabout at SR 275 and Rincon-Stillwell Road. Comments are currently being addressed in the preliminary design. Mr. Wendall Kessler expressed his desire to accelerate this project's time schedule, given the dangers present at this intersection. Mrs. Ann Purcell responded that the GDOT coffers are nearly empty as they wait for the federal bill to pass. No GDOT projects are letting in December, with only partial letting due in January 2016. The diverging diamond interchange is currently under final design with groundbreaking expected in late winter of 2016.

Regarding active construction projects, the resurfacing project construction on SR 21 is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2016. Springfield's SR 21 project will have its bid opening this coming Friday. The two bridges and approaches on US Hwy 80 over the Ogeechee River are anticipated to be open to traffic within three weeks.

### **Item 2: CORE MPO Committee**

Mr. Toss Allen discussed a need for an ACAT (Advisory Committee for Accessible Transportation) committee member on the board. A search for such a person will ensue.

# Effingham County Transportation Advisory Board

601 North Laurel Street • Springfield, GA 31329 • (912) 754-2111 • [Transportation@EffinghamCounty.org](mailto:Transportation@EffinghamCounty.org)

## ***Item 3: Transportation Funding Referendum***

Mr. Toss Allen mentioned that the Board must be vigilant in preparation for and understanding of this legislation between now and its deadline of the first of 2017. Mr. Lamar Allen added that the number of counties joining in the effort with Effingham County, whether multiple or none, will make a difference with this policy. There was discussion that perhaps the formation of an informative committee, both to inform the public on the specific projects being sought for this funding and to attempt to formulate a coalition with neighboring counties would be beneficial. Mr. Chap Bennett offered to participate. Mr. Toss Allen advised him that Effingham County staff would be available to assist him with any leg work.

## **Item 4: Other Old Business**

No other old business was discussed.

## **New Business:**

### **Item 1: Atlanta Regional Commission Transportation Alternatives Program**

Mrs. Wykoda Wang explained that Effingham County would not be eligible for ARC monies. Mrs. Maggie Yoder mentioned that the TAP funds are primarily being utilized for existing lingering TE projects. Mrs. Wang did suggest the possibility of Effingham County possibly having access to reimbursement monies around \$500K/year for certain bicycle or pedestrian transportation projects within the MPA area.

## **Adjournment:**

Mr. Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Zipperer seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all and the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 A.M.