

# 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



**January 12, 2016**

Transportation Advisory Meeting

**Present:** Mr. Lamar Allen, Mr. Brett Bennett, Mr. Rick Lott, Mr. Chap Bennett, Mr. Osman Bholut, Mr. Troy Pittman, Mrs. Dinah King, Mr. John Henry, Mr. Ron Nelson, Mr. Wingate Bryan, Mr. Brett Bennett, Mr. Wesley Sherrod, and Mr. Toss Allen. Mr. Alan Zipperer **Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:39 a.m. by Mr. Lamar Allen.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was not technically approved as a quorum was not available at the beginning of the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** At the end of the meeting, the minutes were then approved with a motion by Mr. Chap Bennett and a second by Mr. Brett Bennett when a quorum became available.

## Old Business:

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

#### GDOT Projects

Mr. Bryan discussed the status of on-going transportation projects. The I-16 interchange at Old River Road is on schedule, with final field plan review scheduled for February 18th. The preliminary design is currently on hold due to DOT coordination with the Corps over constructability issues. GDOT was not able to elaborate on the specific nature of those issues, but Mr. Toss Allen mentioned that VE discussions have partially contributed to the slowdown in progress. The PCRF for the roundabout at SR 17 and SR 119 has been submitted; however, more time must be allocated to the right-of-way establishment. Preliminary design is ongoing for the roundabout at SR 275 and Rincon-Stillwell Road. There is currently no activity taking place at County Road 156 and Blue Jay Road.

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 had a bid opening on 11/20/15, which was awarded to Ty Swindell Construction with notice to proceed. The two bridges and approaches on US Hwy 80 over the Ogeechee River are open to traffic and scheduled to be complete by Spring.

### Item 2: Transportation Funding Referendum

Mr. Toss Allen indicated that he understands there is to be no revision to HB 170 regarding the minimum timing of the vote. The vote could not occur, therefore, until at least July 2017. Mr. Lamar Allen mentioned he will check whether a vote during a special election could be scheduled that year, or whether it must take place during a general election year. Mr. Chap Bennett commented that an organized initiative must occur to inform the public, and particularly all special interest groups, of the specifics of the vote prior to the election. He indicated that the specific projects sought for funding must be revealed to the public to generate positive interest. The committee as a whole agreed they are not aware of any one specific interest group that is opposed to the referendum locally. The committee also agreed there is no perceived benefit from participating in a regional election, as Mr. Toss Allen mentioned he understood that should participating regional counties have varying election results across county lines, the results would stand anyway per county.

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## **Item 3: Other Old Business**

No other old business was discussed.

## **New Business:**

### **Item 1: Atlanta GDOT Representatives HR 170 Education**

Mr. Toss Allen indicated that Mrs. Ann Purcell, not present at the meeting, offered some of GDOT's HR 170 experts to educate the County and others about the specifics of the bill. He appreciated the ability the County and others would then have to more accurately and intelligently inform the public about its particulars and answer their questions. There is a possibility that the meeting with these experts could occur in the upcoming Atlanta meeting. Toss would check for their availability and time scheduling.

## **Adjournment:**

Mr. Lamar Allen asked if there was any additional new business. Seeing none, he adjourned the meeting at 9:13 A.M.