

# 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*

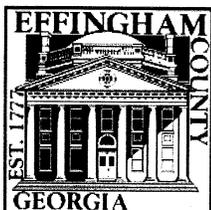
**John A. Henry**

*Effingham County IDA*

**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.



**March 15, 2016**

Transportation Advisory Meeting

**Present:** Mr. Lamar Allen, Mr. Tommy Blewett, Mr. Brett Bennett, Mr. Rick Lott, Mr. Chap Bennett, Mrs. Wanda Simmons, Mr. Osman Bholat, Mr. Troy Pittman, Mrs. Wykoda Wang, Mr. Ron Nelson, Mr. Wesley Sherrod, Mr. Toss Allen, and Mr. Alan Zipperer **Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Mr. Lamar Allen.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved with a motion by Mr. Lamar Allen

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the January 12th meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Alan Zipperer and a second by Mr. Chap Bennett.

## Old Business:

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

#### GDOT Projects

Mr. Pittman discussed the status of on-going transportation projects. The I-16 interchange at Old River Road had its final field plan review held on February 18th; environmental activities are nearly complete. Effingham Parkway's environmental activities are 40% complete; however, they are facing constructability issues with the USACE. Mr. Toss Allen elaborated that part of the constructability issue stems from the corridor intersecting a wetlands conservation easement, which requires further investigation and perhaps a change to the corridor layout. The roundabout at SR 17 and SR 119 has completed final plans and is still in the process of acquiring right-of-way. 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 be complete by the summer of 2016. Springfield's SR 21 project observed its preconstruction meeting last month and is scheduled to begin next month. 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 the current issue pertains to the matter of simply when to get started. While in Atlanta, discussing with GDOT officials, he understood them to state that he should defer to the county attorney as to the earliest allowed time to vote on the issue. The attorney has advised that November 2017 is that earliest time. Mr. Toss Allen also mentioned that Effingham County's SPLOST referendum would be on this year's November ballot. It was discussed and agreed that informing the public should not occur until after the SPLOST vote to avoid potentially overwhelming them with two tax oriented initiatives. Mr. Rick Lott asked Mr. Toss Allen what the driving impetus behind the SPLOST initiative would be. Mr. Toss Allen cited several needed projects within the County, totaling nearly \$40 million. He mentioned that it will be possible by the next TAB meeting to have compiled a more definitive list displaying these needed transportation based projects. Mr. Chap Bennett posed the question of how to get started with informing the public about the tax

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initiatives, when it is time to present each. At first, it was mentioned that the information campaign should be Chamber driven. However, Mr. Rick Lott welcomed expertise within the TAB to collectively push the initiatives. Mr. Toss Allen noted that staff could play an advisory role but could not actively engage in the initiatives' campaigning. Mr. Lamar Allen asked the question if other counties are also interested in a SPLOST initiative and if it would be prudent to join those who are in a collective push. It was mentioned that Mr. Brett Bennett was discussing this with Screven County, and that staff would reach out to neighboring counties and ask. Mr. Toss Allen asked Mrs. Wykoda Wang if she knew if Chatham County was interested, to which she replied that she doubted it was a proposal that would not generate public interest for them at this time.

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

No other old business was discussed.

### **New Business:**

No new business was discussed.

### **Adjournment:**

Mr. Lamar Allen adjourned the meeting at 9:02A.M with motion by Mr. Alan Zipperer and second by Mr. Chap Bennett.