

Effingham County Transportation Advisory Board

601 North Laurel Street

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Committee Members

F. Lamar Allen
School Board, Chairman

Alan Zipperer
Vice-Chairman

Stephanie Johnson
Secretary

Russ Deen
City of Guyton

Matt Morris
City of Springfield

Ken Lee
City of Rincon

Wesley Corbitt
Effingham County

Troy Smith
Effingham County IDA

Tommy Blewett, P.E.

Supporting Staff
Tim Callanan
County Administrator

John Klimm
Rincon City Manager

Brett Bennett
Guyton Interim City Manager

Brandt Herndon
Effingham County IDA

Randy Shearouse
Superintendent, BOE

Teresa Concannon
County Planner

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 21, 2020

Transportation Advisory Board Meeting

Present: Mr. Lamar Allen, Mr. Brett Bennett, Mr. Tommy Blewett, Mr. Tim Callanan, Ms. Teresa Concannon, Mr. Wesley Corbitt, Mr. Byron Cowart, Mr. Andrew Cripps, Mr. Matt Gill, Ms. Jessica Hood, Mr. Eric Larson, Mr. Ken Lee, Mrs. Ann Purcell, Mr. Troy Smith, and Mr. Alan Zipperer.

Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Allen at 9:35 A.M.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the November 19th meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Mr. Lee, and seconded by Mr. Blewett.

Old Business:

Item 1: Discussion of On-Going Transportation Projects

Mr. Cowart gave a brief summary: Effingham Parkway is in the final design stage, and right of way acquisition is ongoing. SR 119 @ Ogeechee River & Overflow is in the final design stage, and environmental studies are ongoing. SR 17 @ CR 156/Blue Jay Road roundabout is in the final design stage. Right of way funds have been authorized, and appraisals are underway.

Widening and reconstruction on CR 310/Old River Road and construction of a bridge and approaches over I-16/SR404 is ongoing. Resurfacing on SR 21 from SR 30 to north of railroad overpass in Rincon is 99% complete, with only corrective work on signal loops remaining. Milling, resurfacing, and shoulder rehabilitation on SR 275 from north of SR 21 to dead end was let in December, and pre con is pending.

Mr. Corbitt asked whether the traffic counts on Hwy 199 merited widening of the road. Mrs. Purcell responded that the project was approved and funded several years ago, but the Effingham County Board of Commissioners rejected the widening project. It would take a long time to get the project back on the list. Mr. Corbitt noted that bike trails were planned, and that the county might consider TSPLOST funding. He will discuss the matter with the Board of Commissioners to get the history. Mrs. Purcell noted that widening of Hwy 21 in the CORE MPO area of Effingham County is under consideration.

Mr. Nelson gave an update on Effingham County projects:

The Truck Route ordinance will be on the January 21, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting agenda. Indigo Road FDR was completed last week, and is curing now. The Fort Howard / Old Augusta Road roundabout will require a 45-day closure of the intersection, as of January 1, 2020. Mr. Corbitt noted that the detour onto Bunyan-Kessler Road was causing problems with road conditions, and that trucks should be routed elsewhere. Mr. Larson said that EOM has ordered signage to deter trucks from using Bunyan-Kessler and Long Pond Road as detours. Also, an RFP has been issued for patching on Bunyan-Kessler Road, Courthouse Road, and the Board of Elections parking lot. Washout repairs on Bunyan-Kessler are complete. Mrs. Purcell asked if Bunyan-Kessler was an ash road. Mr. Corbitt responded that it was, and that asphalt had been applied to the surface. If the Indigo Road reclamation project is successful, the procedure can be used on other roads.

Mr. Larson also noted that several right turn lanes are in design at this time. The proposed right turn lane to serve the Effingham Park of Commerce was denied by GDOT.

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Effingham Parkway:

Mr. Corbitt asked GDOT about reimbursement for Effingham Parkway engineering. There are issues with digital submission. Receivables due to the county are \$2m. Mr. Callanan said he would resubmit the forms. Right of way acquisition has proceeded quickly, and there are only 3-4 owners still in negotiation. Mr. Callanan is meeting with the ROW agent to confirm that the process is near completion. The MOA has been signed (GDOT, SHPO), and he expects to meet the April certification date. MOA with GDOT, SHPO has been signed. Mr. Smith announced that the permit application has been sent to the US Army Corps of Engineers, and they are now accepting comments. Positive comments will help the application. He asked that the application be sent to all TAB members.

Mr. Zipperer asked whether there were plans to upgrade Bluejay Road. Truck traffic from Effingham Parkway will cause problems unless the road is improved. Mr. Corbitt responded that Bluejay Road is one of six roads listed for improvements such as widening, striping, and accel/decel lanes. Mr. Zipperer noted that trucks seeking a path from the Effingham Parkway to I-16 may impact local roads and neighborhoods. We need a plan to improve the roads on the south end.

TSPLOST

Mr. Callanan stated that he met with city representatives to discuss the Intergovernmental Agreement. When that is approved, the project lists will be finalized, and the Chamber can begin a marketing campaign.

Item 2: CORE MPO Citizens Advisory Committee Appointment

Mr. Allen called for nominations to the CORE MPO Citizen Advisory Committee. A request for nominations was sent to the TAB. Mr. Bennett volunteered. Mr. Lee made a motion to recommend Mr. Bennet to the Board of Commissioners as the TAB nominee, and was seconded by Mr. Corbitt. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Item 1: Election of Officers

Mr. Allen called for nominations of officers. Mr. Corbitt nominated Mr. Allen for Chairman, Mr. Lee for Vice Chair, and Stephanie Johnson for Secretary.

Mr. Lee declined the nomination, and nominated Mr. Blewett for Vice Chair. **Mr. Blewett declined the nomination, and nominated Mr. Zipperer for Vice Chair.** The group voted and approved Mr. Allen for Chairman, **Mr. Zipperer for Vice Chair**, and Stephanie Johnson for Secretary.

Item 2: BUILD Grant

Mr. Larson gave summary of the BUILD program, which replaced the TIGER grant program. BUILD Transportation grants are for investments in surface transportation infrastructure and have been awarded on a competitive basis to projects with a significant impact in their local or regional communities. BUILD funding supports roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation. EOM has identified three potential projects for current and future rounds of BUILD. McCall/Bluejay Road improvement project is shovel ready, and eligible for the 2020 round. The Old River Road project will be ready for FY 2021. The third idea is to widen McCall Road at the Research Forest Tract development. Board of Commissioner action is required before the applications can move forward. There is a 20% local match.

Mr. Corbitt said he would discuss the projects with the Board of Commissioners. He also discussed widening Old River Road at I-16. Mr. Smith noted that recent developments, such as Lane Lee Trucking and the industrial park, will lead to increased truck traffic on Old River Road at I-16. Mr. Callanan asked if a multijurisdictional (county/GDOT) BUILD grant application for Old River Road would be competitive.

Adjournment:

Mr. Lamar Allen called for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Lee made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Blewett. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 A.M.