

Effingham County Transportation Advisory Board

601 North Laurel Street

• Springfield, GA 31329

• (912) 754-2111

• Transportation@EffinghamCounty.org

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School Board, Chairman

Brett Bennett

City of Springfield, Vice-Chairman

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Secretary

Dr. Franklin Goldwire

City of Guyton

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Transportation Engineer

Brett Bennett

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Steve Davis

County Administrator

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 15, 2018

Transportation Advisory Meeting

Present: Mr. Alan Zipperer, Mrs. Ann Purcell, Mr. Brett Bennett, Mr. Brian Adlerstein, Dr. Franklin Goldwire, Mrs. LaMeisha Kelly, Mr. Steve Davis, Mr. Steve Price, Mr. Tre Wilkins, Mr. Troy Pittman, Mrs. Wykoda Wang.

Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Brett Bennett at 8:42 A.M.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved with a motion by Mr. Brett Bennett and seconded by Mrs. LaMeisha Kelly.

Approval of Minutes: The amended minutes for the March 20th meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Alan Zipperer and seconded by Dr. Franklin Goldwire

Old Business:

Item 1: Discussion of On-Going Transportation Projects

GDOT Projects

Mr. Troy Pittman discussed the status of on-going transportation projects. The final plans for I-16 @ CR 310/Old River Rd.-Interchange are complete. Discussion began about the inadequate funding for this project and reduction of the project scope, however Mr. Brett Bennett suggested to wait upon Mr. Steve Davis's arrival before discussing this topic further. Right of Way acquisition is on going and final design has begun for the Effingham Parkway. Chatham county has six parcels for this project and first offers had been made on five of these parcels. SR 119 @ Ogeechee River & Overflow bridges environmental studies are on going and the consultant has begun preliminary design. The project manager is currently negotiating a task order for SR 17 @ CR 156/Blue Jay Rd. Roundabout, and the project schedule has been approved. Mr. Tre Wilkins asked about the details of the project schedule. Mr. Troy Pittman stated that as of now the management let date for that project is September 2020 and that they already have an approved concept. Preliminary design for this project will start once they execute the task order.

For active constructing projects SR 17 @ SR 119—roundabout is 50% complete and the contractor is working on drainage structures. 12.159 miles of milling and plant mix resurfacing on I-95 from North of I-16 to South of the Savannah River is approximately 55% complete and the contractor has resumed work. The contractor just began work on the roundabout at SR 275 @ CR 307/Rincon-Stillwell Rd last month and is about 5% complete. The preconstruction meeting for 9.926 miles of milling, inlay and plant mix resurfacing on SR 17 from South of Noel Conway Rd./ SR 30 to North of Anderson St. was held last month. The contractor was supposed to start work yesterday but may be delayed due to recent rain events.

Other projects were offered that were not on the list. The temporary roundabout at Blue Jay Road @ SR 17 will have GDOT maintenance forces do preliminary grading work this summer. Bids were just put out and Carol & Carol was the low bidder. Work should start this

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June and hopefully complete while school is out. Mrs. Wykoda Wang inquired about the roundabout and what will be done. Mr. Troy Pittman said the work will include some paving around the intersection radius and installing a concrete roundabout. Mrs. Ann Purcell stated there will be 4-way stop conditions placed at the intersection before construction begins.

New Business:

Mr. Tre Wilkins stated he would be willing to go to his board to see if IDA can assist with funding concerns for Old River Road. Discussion ensued regarding other potential sources of funding for this project. Dr. Franklin Goldwire inquired if the Guyton Roundabout was on schedule. Mr. Troy Pittman stated it was. Mr. Brett Bennett asked about the completion date and Mr. Troy Pittman replied this was set for December. Regarding the I-16@ CR 310/Old River Rd.-Interchange, Mr. Steve Davis offered the County has agreed through discussions with GDOT that they will fund ramp D, which is the off ramp on I-16 west bound and costs approximately \$250,000, and the state will pay for the engineering costs brought from changes to the original project. He also stated the bridge will remain the same. The let date was shifted to September. Mr. Troy Pittman stated GDOT planned to light the temporary roundabout at the Blue Jay Road and SR 17 roundabout and asked if the County was willing to pay for lighting since the County has already agreed to pay for lighting the final roundabout. Mr. Steve Davis replied that the County will do so. Mr. Brett Bennett inquired about the increased speed limit on Highway 21 from Parker's to north of town. He says GDOT informed him this change has already occurred but the speed limit signs have not been updated yet. Mr. Brett Bennett stated that everyone within the City of Springfield is against this change and asked if there is a way to prevent this change from occurring. Mr. Troy Pittman stated this cannot be avoided if the characteristics of the road warrant a change in the speed limit through a speed study. Mrs. Wykoda Wang asked if this was an urban area and if so it would typically have the speed limit decreased, but Mr. Troy Pittman stated this area has a rural footprint. Discussion ensued about Victory Drive in the city of Savannah and what local governments can do to initiate changes for speed limits on state roads. Mr. Steve Davis asked about the authorization date for Effingham Parkway being 2020, however the let date is set for April of 2019. Mr. Troy Pittman stated that the date says 2020 because the project will likely be let in July which would fall under the 2020 fiscal year. Mr. Steve Davis stated the construction cost estimate for the Fort Howard Roundabout is \$900,000. He plans to issue an RFP next month. Mr. Steve Davis inquired about the Right of Way date for SR 119 @ Ogeechee River & Overflow. Mr. Troy Pittman stated that project would carry over into the 2020 fiscal year. Mr. Steve Davis asked Mrs. Ann Purcell if any discussion within GDOT has occurred regarding the widening of Highway 21 since the last TAB meeting. Mrs. Ann Purcell stated there has not been. Discussion ensued about Georgia's large coastal population growth and other road projects GDOT is undertaking to address this. Mrs. LaMeisha Kelly asked if this committee would be willing to discuss the TSPLOST and if the County wants to consider incorporating this program. Mr. Troy Pittman stated he believes everyone sitting at the current committee meeting is in favor of TSPLOST and he believes it would up to this board to initiate the process. Mrs. Ann Purcell stated many counties have already passed their own individual TSPLOST programs which will make forming a regional TSPLOST program unlikely. Discussion ensued about the benefits of a County TSPLOST program and how to best present it. Mrs. Ann Purcell stated that GDOT would offer guidance with the TSPLOST because of the multitude of requirements and legal processes needed to be followed in accordance with the law to incorporate a County TSPLOST. These rules also include the amount that can be collected and how the funds are broken up. Mrs. LaMeisha Kelly asked if local governments can pay for advertising a TSPLOST bill to help educate citizens on the importance of the funds and to help pass the bill. Discussion ensued as to which funds could be used for this. Mr. Steve Davis stated general funds could not be used so private donations may need to be sought after. Mrs. Ann Purcell suggested that Jay Roberts should visit the county to assist with passing the TSPLOST, since he had a hand in writing the TSPLOST bill and helped pass it in other counties. Mrs. Wykoda Wang asked if Highway 21 is still closed after the plane crash. Mrs. Ann Purcell stated it is not open. Mrs. Wykoda Wang asked how long until they highway is reopened. Mrs. Ann Purcell stated the Highway will remain closed for as long as the Department of Defense deems necessary. Mr. Troy Pittman stated the Department of Defense owns the crash site and are managing the cleanup and restoration on their own. Preliminary testing is occurring on the soils and pavement. More testing still needs to be

done. No estimate will be given for a reopening date until all the testing is complete. Brett Bennett asked if traffic was poorly affected by this, Mrs. Ann Purcell stated there has not been significant traffic delays due to other available routes. Mr. Steve Davis offered the crash also damaged some utilities serving the 911 center.

Adjournment:

Mr. Brett Bennett called for a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. LaMeisha Kelly. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 A.M.