

APPENDIX A. Public Involvement Documentation

Summary of Stakeholder Input

The consulting team and Georgia Department of Transportation representatives identified and interviewed twenty-two community leaders regarding transportation issues and improvement priorities. These stakeholders' responses to detailed questions about Effingham's transportation system are located at the end of this appendix. The following stakeholders were interviewed:

Name	Title	Affiliation
John Henry	Director and CEO	Effingham County Chamber of Commerce <i>and</i> Economic Development Authority
Charles Hinely	Councilman	City of Springfield <i>and</i> Effingham County Economic Development Authority
Delmons White	Pastor	Macedonia Baptist Church <i>and</i> Effingham County Economic Development Authority
Adam Kobeck	Assistant County Administrator	Effingham County
George Shaw	Planner	Effingham County
Steve Liotta	Engineer	Effingham County
David Crawley	Zoning Administrator	Effingham County
Lowell Morgan	Public Works Director	Springfield
Brett Bennett	City Manager	Springfield
Donald Toms	City Manager	City of Rincon
LaMeisha Hunter	City Planner	City of Rincon
Walter Wright	Fire Department	Effingham County
Jimmy McDuffie	Sheriff	Effingham County
Richard Bush	Chief Deputy	Effingham County
Val Ashcraft	Fire Chief	Effingham County
Homer Wallace	President	NAACP – Effingham County
Lucy Powell	Secretary	NAACP – Effingham County
Randy Shearhouse	Superintendent	Effingham County Board of Education
Ed Brown	Chief Financial Officer	Effingham Hospital
Carrie Thompson	Public Affairs Manager	Georgia Pacific
Jay Ryczkowski	Engineering Manager	Georgia Pacific
Brent Howell	Manager, Government Affairs	Georgia Pacific

The following overarching themes of the stakeholder interview are listed below:

- Effingham County is experiencing significant population growth that is going to continue and it must be planned and controlled.
- Need more balance between people/housing and jobs and between the southern and northern portion of the county.
- Traffic congestion is a critical challenge in certain transportation corridors that requires immediate action to prevent gridlock in those corridors.
- The existing transportation system does not adequately support land use.
- Truck traffic is a major concern. However, there are several additional routes proposed to address the problem.

Summary of Public Questionnaire Responses

Questionnaire responses were received from fifteen Effingham citizens. Although this is not a statistically significant quantity, the comments do provide an insight into the issues that are important to people, and there are some clear commonalities in where people see the most immediate problems as being. Of the fifteen respondents, twelve were employed, two were retired, and one was disabled and not working. As can be seen in **Table A.1**, only one of the twelve employed respondents worked in the same area as they lived. Two respondents from Unincorporated Effingham County cited more than one area in which they worked. The majority of respondents lived in Effingham and worked in Chatham, mirroring trends shown in US Census data for the area.

		EMPLOYMENT						
LOCATION	City of Springfield	City of Rincon	City of Guyton	Unincorp. Effingham County	Chatham County	Other Location	ALL Home Locations	
HOME	City of Springfield				1		1	
	City of Rincon				4		4	
	City of Guyton							
	Unincorporated Effingham County		1		1	5	2	9
	ALL Employment Locations		1		1	10	2	14

Table A.1 Public Questionnaire Respondents Place of Employment and Residence

The first question was: “What are your visions and goals for Effingham County? (Include live, work, play, shop, education, growth)”. **Figure A.1** summarizes the results.

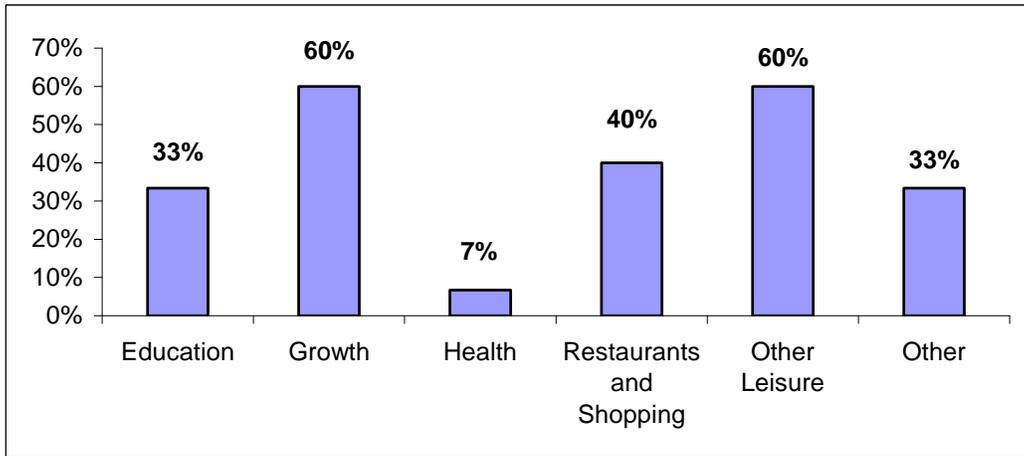


Figure A.1 Goals and Objectives for Effingham County

(Figures do not total 100% because people could provide several goals and objectives)

Of the nine responses relating to growth, four specified the area of jobs and industry, and two specified environmentally sensitive or continued but slower growth. Of the nine responses on *other leisure*, two specified young people or families, and three specified more parks.

Respondents were then asked to choose three issues from a list corresponding to the question: “What do you think are the most critical problems the county will face over the next 25 years?” Their responses are shown in **Figure A.2**.

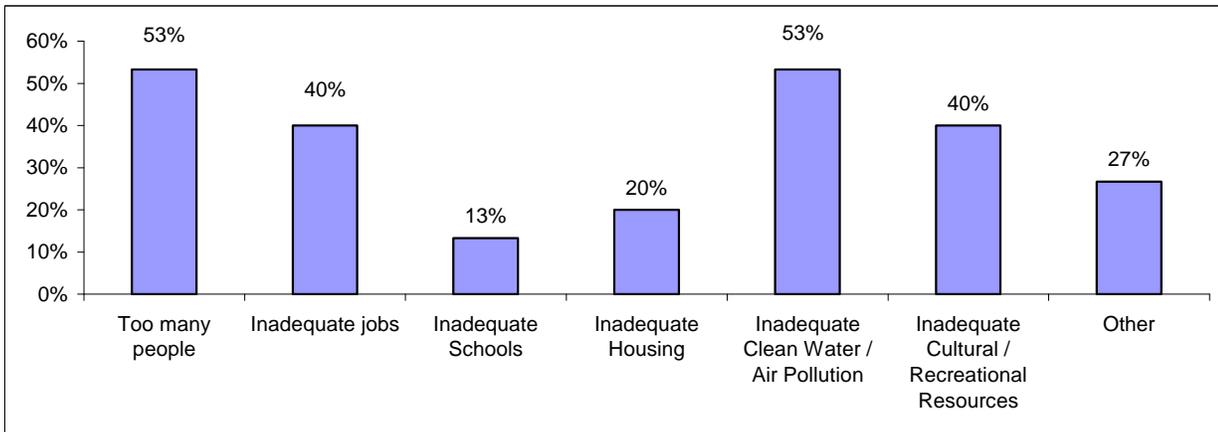


Figure A.2 Critical problems over the next 25 years

(figures do not total 100% because people could make up to 3 choices)

Respondents selected a range of the available issues, though *too many people* and *inadequate clean water/air pollution* were the joint-favorites, closely followed by jobs and cultural/recreational resources. The issues specified by the five people answering *Other* included traffic, high taxes, less traffic signals, limiting developments that generate a lot of traffic, and the condition of rented property.

Traffic and congestion was an almost unanimous response to the question: “*what are the major transportation problems you face as you move about Effingham County on a day-to-day basis?*” Twelve comments relating to congestion were received, of with over half specifying SR 21. Other comments mentioned better road maintenance, bottlenecks, throughways and stop lights, and better road safety and pedestrian crossing facilities.

The questionnaire then asked: “*Identify areas in the existing transportation network that you feel need immediate attention.*” Twelve people responded to this, and 10 of those responses mentioned SR 21. Four of these mentioned the need for widening of SR 21 or for a North-South alternative to provide relief for the I-95 interchange at SR 21 and SR 21 north of Rincon. Other responses included a need for door-to-door transit to serve the handicapped population.

Finally people were asked to make four choices from a list in response to the question: “*What do you believe are the most critical transportation needs in Effingham County?*”

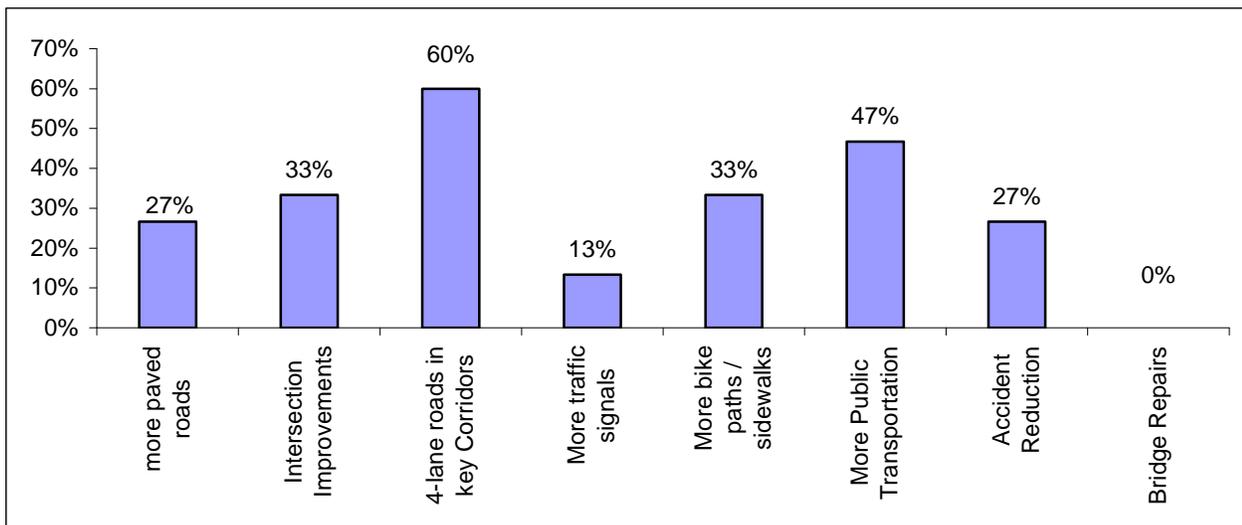


Figure A.3 Critical transportation needs in Effingham County

(figures do not total 100% because people could make up to 4 choices)

As illustrated in **Figure A.3**, 60% of respondents were in favor of 4-lane highways, citing SR 17, SR 21, SR 30, Midland Road, Blue Jay Road, and Old Augusta Road in response to the request to identify which corridors should be 4-lane. 33% also felt intersection improvements were critical. 47% felt that more public transportation was a priority.

Detailed Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholder interviews are an integral part of the citizen participation plan and the outreach strategy for the Multi-Modal Countywide Transportation Study for Effingham County. Stakeholder interviews were conducted to ensure that key stakeholders in the County and cities were knowledgeable of the study and provided input into the process. The purpose of the briefings/interviews was to ensure that the leadership of the community had a working knowledge of the study, including its purpose and need, the expected outcome, the process and the timetable. In this way, the leadership was equipped to assist in reaching out to the general public. Further, the stakeholders provided feedback on major issues related to transportation projects, policies and prioritization. During the interviews, stakeholders were also asked to assist in the promotion of the study by recommending names of citizen groups, community leaders and business leaders and by using their communication networks to encourage participation from all citizens and stakeholders throughout the study area.

Twenty-two stakeholders were interviewed and a record of the actual interviews is recorded in the last section of this report. Joint interviews were conducted in some cases, resulting in ten interview reports.

Overarching Themes

Overarching themes of the stakeholder interviews are listed below:

- ❑ Effingham County is experiencing significant population growth that is going to continue and it must be planned and controlled.
- ❑ Need more balance between people/housing and jobs and between the southern and northern portion of the county.
- ❑ Traffic congestion is a critical challenge in certain transportation corridors that requires immediate action to prevent gridlock in those corridors.
- ❑ The existing transportation system does not adequately support land use.
- ❑ Truck traffic is a major concern. However, there are several additional routes proposed to address the problem.

Recurring Themes

Recurring themes of the stakeholder interviews are listed below:

- ❑ Strong support for the following projects:
 - Effingham Parkway
 - I-16 Interchange at Old River Road
 - Rincon By-Pass (Old Augusta Road)
 - SR 21 corridor needs a variety of transportation improvements, ranging from traffic signalization (including traffic synchronization) to capacity expansion
 - Ft. Howard Road need to be expanded to four lanes with sidewalks

- ❑ SR 119 needs to be expanded to four lanes, especially because of school traffic. School trips also support the need for sidewalks and bike paths
- ❑ SR 119 By-Pass is needed to reduce truck traffic into downtown Springfield
- ❑ Truck traffic is a major concern that can be addressed by the Rincon By-Pass, Effingham Parkway and SR 119 By-Pass projects
- ❑ Congestion on US 80 is a major concern
- ❑ No significant need for traditional transit, but paratransit service need to be expanded for seniors and disabled persons. Further, limited shuttle or subscription needs bus service is needed for citizens without cars, especially for work trips. Carpooling and vanpooling should be considered along the SR 21 corridor.
- ❑ Roadways in the northern part of Effingham County need more attention (too many dirt roads and poorly maintained roads)

INDIVIDUAL STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARY REPORTS

See following pages.



Stakeholder Interview Summary Report Form

Interviewees: John Henry, Director of Effingham County Chamber of Commerce and CEO of Effingham County Industrial Development Authority; Charles Hinely, Industrial Development Authority and Councilman, City of Springfield; Reverend Delmons White, Industrial Development Authority and Pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church

Date of Interview: October 24, 2007

Interviewer: Richard Fangmann

Attendees: Radney Simpson, GDOT; Kyle Mote, GDOT; Theodore R. Williams, DW & Associates

Interview Summary

1. **What, in your opinion, will be the top three most critical transportation issues facing Effingham County and its cities over the next 25 years?**
 - a. Effingham Parkway is most important for the county and the I-16 interchange at Old River Road is most important for the Industrial Development Authority. The main issue is accommodating future growth
2. **How do you feel about the rate of growth taking place in the county (the city)? How do you feel about the type of growth? Growing too fast? Too slow? OK? Too much residential? Not enough industry?**
 - a. The County is growing at what the market will support. We need to create additional jobs to offset residential growth so fewer people must leave the County to work. There are three key development initiatives with which the Industrial Development Authority is involved:
 - Logisticenter – I-16 at Old River Road - Overall \$6 million square feet – Now have developer for pods A and B - 1.7 million square feet. The developer will make road improvements near site. The County has prepared an IMR to improve the I-16 at Old River Road interchange. This is their number one priority. They are talking to other developers regarding the remainder of the area
 - Manufacturing Center north of Rincon – The property north of SR 275 and east of SR 21 will be developed into a manufacturing center with 600 jobs planned in the next year. Large vehicles leaving this plant for the Savannah port will need to travel north on SR 21 to SR 119, west to SR 17 then south to US 80 due to size and load. They anticipate one such shipment per month
 - Research Forest – This development area is located east of Rincon and will be served by SR 21 and Effingham Parkway. This will require grade separation of the CSX railroad at Fort Howard Road. The west area of the site could be a 1000-acre mega site for industrial development. Along the SR 21 corridor, light industrial and commercial development is planned. West of the railroad a research center and offices are planned, with heavy industrial along the Effingham Parkway corridor further west. The total size of the site is 2,600 acres and it is anticipated to generate 4000 to 6000 jobs



- 3. Do you believe the existing transportation system adequately supports land uses in Effingham County? If not, what specific improvements would you make?**
 - a. No, existing congestion along SR 21 in Rincon is a problem, as well as along US 80. The Rincon Bypass, Effingham Parkway, and I-16 at Old River Road interchanges will help solve the problem
- 4. Are you experiencing delays or difficulty in traveling to and from different parts of the county or in and out of the county? If so, Please indicate where and when do the most serious delays occur?**
 - a. The most serious delays are along the SR 21 corridor in Rincon and at I-95. Increased port activity will make these conditions worse
- 5. Identify areas in the current transportation network that you feel are most in need of immediate attention. Include safety concerns.**
 - a. See No. 3 above
- 6. In your opinion, is there a need for modes of transportation in addition to the private automobile? Specify.**
 - The population is not dense enough to support traditional transit. The Coastal Georgia RDC has a demand responsive transit system that may need to be expanded
 - Carpool and vanpool programs may be possible for traffic traveling to/from Port and Gulfstream
- 7. Do you see any issues associated with parking, pedestrians and/or bicycle facilities in Effingham County? If yes, what issues do you see and where?**
 - The main focus for the Industrial Development Authority is on major traffic movements and getting employees to jobs. Due to lower development density in this area, these are not compatible with walking and bicycling in most cases
- 8. Are there issues related to truck traffic, and if so, what and where? Are adequate routes available for trucks to effectively transport goods? Are additional alternate truck routes needed?**
 - Truck traffic through Rincon is an issue. The Rincon Truck Bypass will help reduce this load. In addition, the Research Forest development area, east of Rincon will need to rely on Effingham Parkway for movement of truck traffic
- 9. In your opinion, does the current road system meet your transportation needs? If not, where should transportation improvements take place?**
 - See no. 3 above
- 10. Are you aware of any Environmental Justice populations (low income, minority, disabled, elderly), groups or neighborhoods in your area that should be contacted by the project team?**
 - There is a need for expanded paratransit to serve unserved needs



Stakeholder Interview Summary Report Form

Interviewees: Rev. Delmons White, Pastor – Macedonia Baptist Church and member of Effingham County Industrial Development Authority (Supplemental to the Interview with John Henry, Effingham County Industrial Development Authority)

Date of Interview: October 24, 2007 and November 9, 2007

Interviewer: Theodore R. Williams

Interview Summary

1. **What, in your opinion, will be the top three most critical issues facing Effingham County and its cities over the next 25 years?**
 - Old Augusta Road Improvement (Rincon Bypass) – concerned about potential impact on residents and cemetery
 - Chimney Road – need traffic signal, especially because of school bus traffic
2. **How do you feel about the rate of growth taking place in the county (the city)? How do you feel about the type of growth? Growing too fast? Too slow? OK? Too much residential? Not enough industry?**
 - See ECIDA Interview
3. **Do you believe the existing transportation system adequately supports land uses in Effingham County? If not, what specific improvements would you make?**
 - See ECIDA Interview
4. **Are you experiencing delays or difficulty in traveling to and from different parts of the county or in and out of the county? If so, Please indicate where and when do the most serious delays occur?**
 - See ECIDA Interview
5. **Identify areas in the current transportation network that you feel are most in need of immediate attention. Include safety concerns.**
 - See ECIDA Interview
6. **In your opinion, is there a need for modes of transportation in addition to the private automobile? Specify.**
 - There is not a need for traditional public transit, but there is a need to examine the adequacy of existing paratransit services
7. **Do you see any issues associated with parking, pedestrians and/or bicycle facilities in Effingham County? If yes, what issues do you see and where?**
 - See ECIDA Interview



8. **Are there issues related to truck traffic on the road system, and if so, what and where? Are adequate routes available for trucks to effectively transport goods? Are additional alternate truck routes needed?**
 - See ECIDA Interview
9. **In your opinion, is spending on transportation adequate? If not, where would you spend more money?**
 - A traffic signal is needed at SR 21 and Chimney Road. Apparently, a recent study recommended that a traffic signal for SR 21 at McCall Road, but Chimney Road has a greater need
10. **Are you aware of any Environmental Justice populations (low income, minority, disabled, elderly), groups or neighborhoods in your area that should be contacted by the project team?**
 - Mr. Levi Scott of Concerned Citizens of Effingham County should be contacted (Mr. Scott is also a Councilman for the City of Rincon). Mr. Scott was contacted and agreed to promote the December 13th Public Meeting



Stakeholder Interview Summary Report Form

Interviewees: Adam Kobeck, Effingham County Assistant County Administrator

George Shaw, Effingham County Planner

Steve Liotta, Effingham County Engineer

David Crawley, Effingham County Zoning Administrator

Date of Interview: October 24, 2007

Interviewer: Richard Fangmann

Attendee: Radney Simpson, GDOT

Interview Summary

1. **What, in your opinion, will be the top three most critical transportation issues facing Effingham County and its cities over the next 25 years?**
 - Funding of transportation improvements
 - Limited capacity to/from Chatham County
 - Transportation planning coordination between Effingham, Chatham, and Bryan Counties
2. **How do you feel about the rate of growth taking place in the county (the city)? How do you feel about the type of growth? Growing too fast? Too slow? OK? Too much residential? Not enough industry?**
 - The County is excited about the growth and thinks it will be good for the County. There needs to be a balance between residential growth and employment opportunities
3. **Do you believe the existing transportation system adequately supports land uses in Effingham County? If not, what specific improvements would you make?**
 - The Effingham Parkway is needed to relieve traffic along SR 21, as well as the Rincon Bypass. The Old River Road interchange with I-16 needs to be upgraded. The County submitted and Interchange modification report to FHWA
 - The Effingham Parkway is a key corridor for the County. It is currently in the GDOT long range program for funding. The County would like to see that accelerated. The north and south connectors to the Effingham Parkway would follow construction of the Parkway
4. **Are you experiencing delays or difficulty in traveling to and from different parts of the county or in and out of the county? If so, Please indicate where and when do the most serious delays occur?**
 - SR 21 at I-95 causes considerable delay for County residents. US 80 also becomes congested, but is scheduled for improvement. This improvement will also relieve traffic at the SR 17 intersection with US 80



5. **Identify areas in the current transportation network that you feel are most in need of immediate attention. Include safety concerns.**
 - The Rincon area is currently congested. The Old Augusta Road improvements can help. Signal coordination is also important
6. **In your opinion, is there a need for modes of transportation in addition to the private automobile? Specify.**
 - There is a need to allow CATS to run a shuttle to the port along SR 21. The CATS authority would need a legislative change to allow this
 - An organized rideshare and vanpool program would be helpful. This should target trips to the Port and GulfStream
 - The County tried to organize staggered shifts with the port, but that did not work
 - The RDC is providing demand responsive transportation. This is a regional program in the pilot stages and will need to be expanded
7. **Do you see any issues associated with parking, pedestrians and/or bicycle facilities in Effingham County? If yes, what issues do you see and where?**
 - Pedestrian facilities are needed along Fort Howard Road and within Rincon. New signals have pedestrian crossings, but no sidewalks connecting them
 - A bike path is needed along SR 119 from Springfield to Guyton to serve trips to/from the schools
8. **Are there issues related to truck traffic, and if so, what and where? Are adequate routes available for trucks to effectively transport goods? Are additional alternate truck routes needed?**
 - The Rincon Truck Bypass is needed to relieve some of the truck traffic through Rincon. Effingham Parkway will serve truck travel needs for the planned industrial site west of Rincon without adding truck traffic through Rincon
9. **In your opinion, does the current road system meet your transportation needs? If not, where should transportation improvements take place?**
 - The projects currently on the improvement program are needed and justified. These are necessary to meet future transportation needs
10. **Are you aware of any Environmental Justice populations (low income, minority, disabled, elderly), groups or neighborhoods in your area that should be contacted by the project team?**
 - The study team should contact Margaret Moore at Effingham County regarding Senior Transportation Issues



Stakeholder Interview Summary Report Form

Interviewees: Lowell Morgan, Springfield Public Works Director

Brett Bennett, Springfield City Manager

Date of Interview: October 24, 2007

Interviewer: Richard Fangmann

Attendee: Radney Simpson, GDOT

Interview Summary

1. **What, in your opinion, will be the top three most critical transportation issues facing Effingham County and its cities over the next 25 years?**
 - Implementation of projects that are already planned in county (such as Rincon Bypass, Effingham Parkway, SR 119 Bypass, and Springfield Streetscape/pedestrian access)
2. **How do you feel about the rate of growth taking place in the county (the city)? How do you feel about the type of growth? Growing too fast? Too slow? OK? Too much residential? Not enough industry?**
 - We think the growth will have a positive effect on Springfield
3. **Do you believe the existing transportation system adequately supports land uses in Effingham County? If not, what specific improvements would you make?**
 - No, existing congestion is present along SR 21. The projects indicated in #1 above, will help relieve congestion
4. **Are you experiencing delays or difficulty in traveling to and from different parts of the county or in and out of the county? If so, Please indicate where and when do the most serious delays occur?**
 - The SR 119 corridor is experiencing growth. School traffic is likely to increase in this area with growth. Widening to four lanes may be needed
5. **Identify areas in the current transportation network that you feel are most in need of immediate attention. Include safety concerns.**
 - See No.1 above
6. **In your opinion, is there a need for modes of transportation in addition to the private automobile? Specify.**
 - Pedestrian improvements are needed in Downtown Springfield. The City has sidewalk along Ash Street and South Laurel Street. One major issue is connecting the two. Construction of sidewalks requires additional work for drainage, increasing costs



7. **Do you see any issues associated with parking, pedestrians and/or bicycle facilities in Effingham County? If yes, what issues do you see and where?**
 - The City has a need to move pedestrians in Downtown. That is why the Streetscape/pedestrian access project is critical. The city also needs to connect the Downtown to surrounding streets. A third need is to provide a pedestrian connection across SR 21 bypass to the park along Courthouse Road. This will require an elevated pedestrian crossing or a pedestrian signal at SR 21 at McCall Street
 - The City is working on a pedestrian plan (to be prepared by staff) and will forward it to us when completed
8. **Are there issues related to truck traffic, and if so, what and where? Are adequate routes available for trucks to effectively transport goods? Are additional alternate truck routes needed?**
 - Trucks are not able to use the low clearance railroad underpass north of Springfield. So, they must use SR 119 through downtown. The SR 119 project would realign this route, eliminating the truck traffic downtown
9. **In your opinion, does the current road system meet your transportation needs? If not, where should transportation improvements take place?**
 - See No. 1 above
10. **Are you aware of any Environmental Justice populations (low income, minority, disabled, elderly), groups or neighborhoods in your area that should be contacted by the project team?**
 - Within Springfield there is a need to provide pedestrian connections to underprivileged neighborhoods along Ash Street and other areas near Downtown



Stakeholder Interview Summary Report Form

Interviewee: LaMeisha R. Hunter, City Planner – City of Rincon

Date of Interview: October 24, 2007

Interviewers: Kyle Mote, Theodore R. Williams

Attendee: Donald Toms, City Manager – City of Rincon

Interview Summary

1. **What, in your opinion, will be the top three most critical issues facing Effingham County and its cities over the next 25 years?**
 - Congestion and travel time on SR 21
 - Expand Fort Howard Road to four lanes because of existing subdivisions (five new subdivisions expected) and the Georgia Pacific plant
 - Need a traffic signal at SR 21 and 9th Street
2. **How do you feel about the rate of growth taking place in the county (the city)? How do you feel about the type of growth? Growing too fast? Too slow? OK? Too much residential? Not enough industry?**
 - Population growth in City of Rincon ranges from steady “to too fast” at 8 – 10% per year
3. **Do you believe the existing transportation system adequately supports land uses in Effingham County? If not, what specific improvements would you make?**
 - The City of Rincon has adequate controls and does a good job of planning new roads for new neighborhoods
 - A major problem is the railroad bisecting the city, resulting in circuitous travel, thus resulting in the need for more railroad crossings
4. **Are you experiencing delays or difficulty in traveling to and from different parts of the county or in and out of the county? If so, Please indicate where and when do the most serious delays occur?**
 - Other traffic concerns include
 - SR 17 and SR 119 in Guyton
 - McCall Road and SR 21 – very dangerous (suggested limiting left hand turns)
 - The Overpass at 4th Street, limits the visibility existing the Elementary School
5. **Identify areas in the current transportation network that you feel are most in need of immediate attention. Include safety concerns.**
 - Extend Lexington Avenue to Lisa Street
 - Extend Carolina Street to the new Lowe’s site
 - Expand Ft. Howard Road to four lanes



- Rincon Bypass to divert truck traffic only
- 6. In your opinion, is there a need for modes of transportation in addition to the private automobile? Specify.**
 - Medical transportation for seniors and disabled people
 - Some type of transit service because some citizens are paying \$20 to private drivers for work trips
- 7. Do you see any issues associated with parking, pedestrians and/or bicycle facilities in Effingham County? If yes, what issues do you see and where?**
 - There is no parking problems because the City of Rincon does not have a traditional downtown
 - Sidewalks are needed on Ft. Howard Road because of numerous subdivisions and people walking in the road or ditch
 - A bike path is needed on the Ebenezer Scenic Bypass
- 8. Are there issues related to truck traffic on the road system, and if so, what and where? Are adequate routes available for trucks to effectively transport goods? Are additional alternate truck routes needed?**
 - Truck traffic is a problem on SR 21, Ft. Howard Road and 9th Street
 - The Rincon Bypass is needed to divert truck traffic, but not car traffic
- 9. In your opinion, is spending on transportation adequate? If not, where would you spend more money?**
 - See No. 5 above
- 10. Are you aware of any Environmental Justice populations (low income, minority, disabled, elderly), groups or neighborhoods in your area that should be contacted by the project team?**
 - No



Stakeholder Interview Summary Report Form

Interviewees: Walter Wright, Effingham County Fire Department

Jimmy McDuffie, Effingham County Sheriff

Richard Bush, Effingham County Chief Deputy

Val Ashcraft, Effingham County Fire Chief

Date of Interview: October 24, 2007

Interviewer: Richard Fangmann

Attendee: Radney Simpson, GDOT

Interview Summary

1. **What, in your opinion, will be the top three most critical transportation issues facing Effingham County and its cities over the next 25 years?**
 - Highway 21 and US 80 are already overcapacity
 - Limited hurricane evacuation capability with only two state roads leading to the north
2. **How do you feel about the rate of growth taking place in the county (the city)? How do you feel about the type of growth? Growing too fast? Too slow? OK? Too much residential? Not enough industry?**
 - The County has plans to move people in, but no plans on how to move people within the County
3. **Do you believe the existing transportation system adequately supports land uses in Effingham County? If not, what specific improvements would you make?**
 - The Effingham Parkway is needed to relieve traffic along SR 21. It will need to be 4-lanes to keep pace with growth
 - The Rincon bypass is needed to reduce truck traffic through town
4. **Are you experiencing delays or difficulty in traveling to and from different parts of the county or in and out of the county? If so, Please indicate where and when do the most serious delays occur?**
 - SR 21 has backups from I-95 that can stretch 4 or 5 miles. Also, US 80 is congested. It is planned for improvements. These need to extend west to US 280
 - The emergency services have difficulties traveling east to west, particularly in the northern part of the County. They must take several County roads that are not as well maintained to wind through the area. The state routes provide good north to south connectivity



5. **Identify areas in the current transportation network that you feel are most in need of immediate attention. Include safety concerns.**
 - SR 21 and US 80 are currently congested and in need of relief. The SR 119 is a major safety concern. Accidents are frequent along the corridor, especially when school lets out. Two Sheriff's Deputies direct traffic from the high school exit
 - A free right turn movement is needed from SR 119 eastbound onto SR 21. In addition, this intersection has a drainage problem leading to standing water on the road
6. **In your opinion, is there a need for modes of transportation in addition to the private automobile? Specify.**
 - Springfield and Guyton have park and ride lots, Rincon needs one, as well. There should be an organized program to use these lots
 - Bicycle safety is an issue along SR 119. A bike lane is needed to provide access to the schools
7. **Do you see any issues associated with parking, pedestrians and/or bicycle facilities in Effingham County? If yes, what issues do you see and where?**
 - SR 119 pedestrian and bicycle travel to the schools is important
8. **Are there issues related to truck traffic, and if so, what and where? Are adequate routes available for trucks to effectively transport goods? Are additional alternate truck routes needed?**
 - SR 119 north of Springfield is a heavy logging truck route. This does not have a truck connection to SR 21, therefore, all the trucks must go through downtown Springfield
9. **In your opinion, does the current road system meet your transportation needs? If not, where should transportation improvements take place?**
 - The lack of east-west connectivity, especially north of SR 119 limits the response time for emergency services
 - Load restrictions on bridges are also a concern, as the fire trucks are now heavier than in the past. Many are rated at 30 to 40 tons. Fire trucks and garbage trucks are now around 30 tons
10. **Are you aware of any Environmental Justice populations (low income, minority, disabled, elderly), groups or neighborhoods in your area that should be contacted by the project team?**
 - These communities are present in Clyo, the west side of Guyton, the northwest side of Springfield, along Ash Street and in some areas of Rincon



Stakeholder Interview Summary Report Form

Interviewees: Homer L. Wallace, President – NAACP of Effingham County

Lucy Powell, Secretary – NAACP of Effingham County

Date of Interview: October 24, 2007

Interviewers: Kyle Mote, Theodore R. Williams

Interview Summary

1. **What, in your opinion, will be the top three most critical issues facing Effingham County and its cities over the next 25 years?**
 - Lack of non-medical transportation for seniors and disable people and single parents without cars
 - Lack of affordable transportation
 - Lack of awareness of existing paratransit services
2. **How do you feel about the rate of growth taking place in the county (the city)? How do you feel about the type of growth? Growing too fast? Too slow? OK? Too much residential? Not enough industry?**
 - Residential growth is too fast in the south part of the county, especially around Rincon. However, more residential growth is needed in the northern part of the county. There is a need to consider using the replacement of new schools to manage growth
 - Need more industrial growth
 - Older residential areas need more roadway improvements
3. **Do you believe the existing transportation system adequately supports land uses in Effingham County? If not, what specific improvements would you make?**
 - Need to pave dirt roads, especially in the northern part of the county. These dirt facilities interferes with medical transportation and floods badly when it rains
 - Need to improve roads in the older residential areas, which have too many potholes and uneven pavement surfaces
4. **Are you experiencing delays or difficulty in traveling to and from different parts of the county or in and out of the county? If so, Please indicate where and when do the most serious delays occur?**
 - Major traffic concerns are as follows:
 - US 80
 - SR 17
 - SR 21, south of Rincon



5. **Identify areas in the current transportation network that you feel are most in need of immediate attention. Include safety concerns.**
 - See No. 3 and No. 4 above
6. **In your opinion, is there a need for modes of transportation in addition to the private automobile? Specify.**
 - See No. 1 above
7. **Do you see any issues associated with parking, pedestrians and/or bicycle facilities in Effingham County? If yes, what issues do you see and where?**
 - The City of Guyton needs more sidewalks (contact Pearl Bones about trails, bikeways and sidewalk issues)
8. **Are there issues related to truck traffic on the road system, and if so, what and where? Are adequate routes available for trucks to effectively transport goods? Are additional alternate truck routes needed?**
 - Truck traffic in Rincon is too high. The new loads will increase this problem
 - Need the Old Augusta Road Bypass (Rincon Bypass)
9. **In your opinion, is spending on transportation adequate? If not, where would you spend more money?**
 - See No. 3 above
10. **Are you aware of any Environmental Justice populations (low income, minority, disabled, elderly), groups or neighborhoods in your area that should be contacted by the project team?**
 - Need to distribute flyers to local churches and city council officials. Mr. Wallace and Ms. Powell agreed to help with the flyer distribution to churches



Stakeholder Interview Summary Report Form

Interviewee: Randy Shearouse, Superintendent – Effingham County Board of Education

Date of Interview: October 24, 2007

Interviewers: Kyle Mote, Theodore R. Williams

Interview Summary

1. **What, in your opinion, will be the top three most critical issues facing Effingham County and its cities over the next 25 years?**
 - Traffic on SR 21
 - US 80 in Flakeville
 - SR 119 – a new middle school is being constructed with 1,200 students next to Effingham High School
 - Lack of staging area for parents picking up students
2. **How do you feel about the rate of growth taking place in the county (the city)? How do you feel about the type of growth? Growing too fast? Too slow? OK? Too much residential? Not enough industry?**
 - There is tremendous growth in the student population with 300 new students this year
 - The area around Guyton Elementary is a high growth area as well as the area around Marlow Elementary School
3. **Do you believe the existing transportation system adequately supports land uses in Effingham County? If not, what specific improvements would you make?**
 - Yes
4. **Are you experiencing delays or difficulty in traveling to and from different parts of the county or in and out of the county? If so, Please indicate where and when do the most serious delays occur?**
 - McCall Road at SR 21 – this is a safety problem and buses cannot travel thru this intersection
 - The school must dispatch more buses on the road because of the level of congestion in the Rincon area (more buses are needed because of travel time constraints)
5. **Identify areas in the current transportation network that you feel are most in need of immediate attention. Include safety concerns.**
 - SR 119 needs to be widened to four lanes from Springfield to Guyton
 - Sandhill Road at US 80 is a bad problem
 - See No. 1 above



6. **In your opinion, is there a need for modes of transportation in addition to the private automobile? Specify.**
 - There is a need for transit services for seniors and disable people
 - There is a need for medical transportation for special needs students
7. **Do you see any issues associated with parking, pedestrians and/or bicycle facilities in Effingham County? If yes, what issues do you see and where?**
 - Only at Rincon Elementary School is there a need for sidewalks
8. **Are there issues related to truck traffic on the road system, and if so, what and where? Are adequate routes available for trucks to effectively transport goods? Are additional alternate truck routes needed?**
 - Concerned about truck traffic on SR 275 affecting the school located along this road. This problem could be increased by the Rincon Bypass dumping additional truck traffic onto SR 275
9. **In your opinion, is spending on transportation adequate? If not, where would you spend more money?**
 - See responses to the above questions
10. **Are you aware of any Environmental Justice populations (low income, minority, disabled, elderly), groups or neighborhoods in your area that should be contacted by the project team?**
 - Leadership Effingham has a special transportation group that is examining transportation issues in Effingham County that would be interested in participating in this transportation study. Mr. Shearouse volunteered to a liaison to the Leadership Effingham Transportation Study Group



Stakeholder Interview Summary Report Form

Interviewee: Ed Brown, Chief Financial Officer, Effingham Hospital

Date of Interview: October 24, 2007

Interviewer: Richard Fangmann

Attendee: Radney Simpson, GDOT

Interview Summary

1. **What, in your opinion, will be the top three most critical transportation issues facing Effingham County and its cities over the next 25 years?**
 - Growth along the south side of the County and along the SR 119 corridor
 - Access to healthcare for people north of SR 119 who do not have a car
 - Access to Hospital in Savannah for critical care patients
2. **How do you feel about the rate of growth taking place in the county (the city)? How do you feel about the type of growth? Growing too fast? Too slow? OK? Too much residential? Not enough industry?**
 - The County growth is good and provides additional opportunities for people. It needs to be planned to include employment
3. **Do you believe the existing transportation system adequately supports land uses in Effingham County? If not, what specific improvements would you make?**
 - No, existing congestion is present along SR 21 and the Old River Road access to I-16. However, accommodating the projected new growth is the main issue
4. **Are you experiencing delays or difficulty in traveling to and from different parts of the county or in and out of the county? If so, Please indicate where and when do the most serious delays occur?**
 - Rincon along SR 21 is a congested area, as is SR 21 throughout Chatham County. The SR 17 approach to US 80 is very congested and will finally be getting a traffic signal. The Guyton 4-way stop has regular backups, as well
5. **Identify areas in the current transportation network that you feel are most in need of immediate attention. Include safety concerns.**
 - SR 17 at US 80 is a safety concern, as it needs a traffic signal due to significant congestion
6. **In your opinion, is there a need for modes of transportation in addition to the private automobile? Specify.**
 - Public transportation of some type is needed. It may be possible to expand the Chatham bus system. Carpool and vanpool programs may be possible, as well. A system is needed to help transit dependent people get to/from the hospital



7. **Do you see any issues associated with parking, pedestrians and/or bicycle facilities in Effingham County? If yes, what issues do you see and where?**
 - Children ride along the roads on bikes. This was safer in the past when there was less traffic. SR 119 is a problem area
8. **Are there issues related to truck traffic, and if so, what and where? Are adequate routes available for trucks to effectively transport goods? Are additional alternate truck routes needed?**
 - There are many trucks on the road. We need to make sure we service them adequately as the Ports grow. A major issue for the hospital is related to the ambulance service for trauma care and heart patients. These are sent to the hospital in Savannah. Providing a congestion free route for them is important. In Savannah, the EMS vehicles have a preemption device to turn the signals green. We may be able to use that for trips from Effingham County to Savannah hospital, as well
9. **In your opinion, does the current road system meet your transportation needs? If not, where should transportation improvements take place?**
 - The improvements already identified should make a difference to accommodate future growth (Rincon Bypass and Effingham Parkway)
10. **Are you aware of any Environmental Justice populations (low income, minority, disabled, elderly), groups or neighborhoods in your area that should be contacted by the project team?**
 - There is a need to provide public transportation service to the north end of the County
 - EJ communities include: Cloyo, Egypt and Marlow



Stakeholder Interview Summary Report Form

Interviewee: Brent G. Howell, Manager, Governmental Affairs – Georgia Pacific

Date of Interview: October 24, 2007

Interviewers: Kyle Mote, Theodore R. Williams

Attendees: Carrie A. Thompson, Public Affairs Manager, Savannah River Mill – Georgia Pacific

Jay R. Ryczkowski, Engineering Manager, Savannah River Mill – Georgia Pacific

Interview Summary

1. **What, in your opinion, will be the top three most critical issues facing Effingham County and its cities over the next 25 years?**
 - SR 21 – moving people from Effingham County to Chatham County
 - The Rincon Bypass – this will take 300 trucks out of the City of Rincon
 - Access in and out of the Georgia Pacific plant on Ft. Howard Road
2. **How do you feel about the rate of growth taking place in the county (the city)? How do you feel about the type of growth? Growing too fast? Too slow? OK? Too much residential? Not enough industry?**
 - Residential growth is too fast, but growth is coming and it must be planned and controlled
 - Georgia Pacific employs 1,500 people of which 40% lives in Effingham County
3. **Do you believe the existing transportation system adequately supports land uses in Effingham County? If not, what specific improvements would you make?**
 - SR 21 is a parking lot during peak periods – the problem is caused at SR 21 and I-95 with the spillover effect causing the congestion backlog
 - The new neighborhood of “Rice Hope” is a major concern. It could potentially add 4,000-6,000 people on SR 21
4. **Are you experiencing delays or difficulty in traveling to and from different parts of the county or in and out of the county? If so, Please indicate where and when do the most serious delays occur?**
 - See No. 3 above
5. **Identify areas in the current transportation network that you feel are most in need of immediate attention. Include safety concerns.**
 - Rincon Bypass – this project has been on the drawing board for the last five years. What is the current status and development phases



6. In your opinion, is there a need for modes of transportation in addition to the private automobile? Specify.
 - No
7. Do you see any issues associated with parking, pedestrians and/or bicycle facilities in Effingham County? If yes, what issues do you see and where?
 - No
8. Are there issues related to truck traffic on the road system, and if so, what and where? Are adequate routes available for trucks to effectively transport goods? Are additional alternate truck routes needed?
 - Rincon Bypass
 - Additional access off of Ft. Howard Road to the Georgia Pacific plant (what are the county's plans)
9. In your opinion, is spending on transportation adequate? If not, where would you spend more money?
 - See No. 3 above
10. Are you aware of any Environmental Justice populations (low income, minority, disabled, elderly), groups or neighborhoods in your area that should be contacted by the project team?
 - Contact Bonnie Dixon of the United Way regarding EJ issues