

Effingham County Transportation Advisory Board

601 North Laurel Street

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Committee Members

Dennis Webb
Chairman

F. Lamar Allen
Vice-Chairman

Tommy Blewett, P.E.
Secretary

Dr. Brenda Lovett
City of Guyton

Barton Alderman
City of Springfield

Ken Lee
City of Rincon

Phil Kieffer
Effingham County

Alan Zipperer

Supporting Staff

Toss Allen, P.E.
Transportation Engineer

Brett Bennett
*Springfield City
Manager*

David Crawley
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 Board of Commissioners and the cities of Guyton, Rincon, and Springfield, IDA, and BOE.



November 20, 2012

Transportation Advisory Meeting

Present: Mr. Dennis Webb, Mr. Tommy Blewett, Mr. Alan Zipperer, Representative Purcell, Mr. Phil Kieffer, Mr. Brett Bennett, Mr. Brad Saxon, Ms. Maggie Yoder, Mr. Barton Alderman, Mr. David Crawley and Mr. Toss Allen

Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Mr. Webb.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Mr. Zipperer and seconded by Mr. Kieffer to approve the agenda with the addition of item number 2, discussion on hiring a lobbyist for transportation issues, to be added under new business. The motion was carried by all.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from October 16, 2012 was made by Mr. Blewett, seconded by Mr. Zipperer, and carried by all.

Old Business:

Item 1: Discussion of On Going Transportation Projects

Mr. Saxon discussed the status of on-going DOT projects. The SR 26/US 80 @ Ogeechee River & Overflow project continues to move forward. Marion Avenue at the CSX crossing will be receiving warning signals. A final inspection has been held for the traffic signal upgrades and installation of intersection Video Detection Systems (VDS) at various locations on SR 21, SR 25 and SR 73 project. The intersection improvements on SR 21 @ 9th Street project is being delayed because of utility conflicts. The 6.500 miles of shoulder reconstruction on CR 311 beginning at SR 26 and extending to CR 221 and on CR 140 beginning at the Chatham Co. line and extending to CR 156 is awaiting final striping. The project will be completed by the end of this year.

Mr. Saxon discussed the process for moving forward with incorporating the urbanized areas within Effingham County into CORE MPO. An initial area utilizing rounding of the urbanized area has been proposed. The next step is to determine what the urbanized area will be in the next twenty years. This process will most likely take several years to complete but must be completed in the next three years. A report is available on CORE's website.

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The new auxiliary lane on I-95 will be opened today (11-20-2012). A traffic study is currently being conducted by a consultant to look at any additional improvements that can be made to the SR 21/I-95 interchange. That study is expected to be completed within the next four weeks.

New Business:

Item 1: Update on the Closing of Rail Crossings Throughout the County

Mr. Allen gave a report on the meeting that was held with representatives of The City of Rincon, The Industrial Development Authority, Effingham County and CSX. He stated that the initial response to the requirements for a new at-grade crossing was that three existing at-grade rail crossings would need to be closed. However, options were presented that could possibly be used to substitute for the closing of an existing at-grade crossing. Some examples were, providing a portion of the annual maintenance funding required for the warning devices, funding the initial construction of the warning devices and agreeing to forego any future claims to CSX funding participation at such time the at-grade crossing was converted into a grade separated crossing. Mr. Allen stated that to the best of his knowledge the current proposal is to extend Northridge Drive into the Research Forrest Tract.

Mr. Webb stated that it was his understanding that The City of Rincon intended to take the lead in preparing and submitting the application to CSX.

Mr. Saxon asked when a DRI would be submitted for the development. Specifically looking into traffic and access issue for the property. He stated that tying into the state route at Northridge causes issues with spacing between signalized intersections.

Item 2: Discussion on Hiring a Lobbyist for Transportation Issues

Mr. Webb asked for thoughts on Hiring a lobbyist to lobby the General Assembly on behalf of Effingham County on transportation issues. Representative Purcell stated that she had been contacted by several lobbyists wanting Effingham Counties business. She thought that we may be better served to utilize representatives from the various local governments in Effingham County rather than spending money on a lobbyist. She stated that anytime she is approached by a lobbyist on an issue, she still contacts local officials to get their opinion on the issue. However, she recognizes that local officials may not have a large amount of time available to spend in Atlanta.

Mr. Webb stated that the IDA would continue to look into the issue and he hoped that each group represented by the Transportation Advisory Board would do the same.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Webb to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.