Effingham County Georgia
Board of Commissioners

Damon M. Rahn, Chairman at Large
Forrest F. Floyd, District 1
Roger Burdette, District 2
Jamie Deloach, District 3
Elizabeth Helmly, District 4
Phil Kieffer, District 5

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2025

The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. Damon Rahn, Mr. Forrest Floyd, Mr. Roger Burdette, Mr. Jamie Deloach, and Mr. Phil Kieffer met in work session at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 in the Commissioners Meeting Chambers at the Effingham County Administrative Complex located at 804 South Laurel Street Springfield, Georgia 31329.

STAFF PARTICIPATION

Mr. Tim Callanan – County Administrator, Mr. Edward Newberry – County Attorney, Ms. Stephanie Johnson – County Clerk, Ms. Tasheena Shiggs – Deputy County Clerk, Mr. Clint Hodges – Fire Chief & EMA Director, Mr. Josh Moody – Deputy Building Official, Mr. Ronald Smith – Director of Recreation and Parks, Ms. Jennifer Rose – Planner I, Ms. Chelsie Fernald – Planning Manager, Ms. Kimberly Barlett – Community Planner, Ms. Maraya Durham – I.T. Support Specialist, Mr. Mark Lastinger – Public Information Coordinator, Mr. Tre Wilkins – Project Manager and Mrs. Sarah Mausolf – HR and Risk Management Director

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Brandt Herndon, Murray Marshall, Eric Johnson, Slade Helmly, and Tyler Davis

I - CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rahn called the session to order at 4:11pm

II- WORK SESSION TOPICS

REVIEW AND PRESENTATION OF DRAFT EFFINGHAM COUNTY MASTER TRANSPORTATION PLAN (1):

County Engineer Hulme presented the draft Transportation Master Plan to the Board, solicited feedback, and indicated that the next iteration would incorporate the Board's requested changes. He also announced the presence of Richard Feyman from Pond and Rob McCall with Thomas and Hutton.

County Manager Callanan explained during the development of the first Transportation Master Plan three (3) years ago, it was necessary to start from the ground up and assemble the plan piece by piece. This time, a comprehensive document integrates all aspects of the planned road initiatives.

County Engineer Hulme stated that this table of contents will serve as an overview and will focus on key items that warrant further discussion. Chapter 2 covers relative studies, demographics, anticipated developments, ongoing and upcoming projects, roadway inventory, traffic congestion, safety analysis, multimodal needs, project identification, project recommendations, and funding. Additionally, construction costs, engineering and construction management, right-of-way utilities, and other related topics will be addressed in greater detail. Policy guidelines can be found in Appendix A, while relative studies are outlined in Appendices B and C.

County Manager Callanan explained the Transportation Master Plan will reflect that while some roads may not be designated as official truck routes, improvements will be made to ensure they can adequately support existing freight traffic. Clyo-Kildare is a prime example of a road that will undergo enhancements but will not be designated as a truck route.

County Engineer Hulme provided an update on the Old Augusta Road project. Several intersections, including a roundabout, have been identified for improvements. Kimley Horn is collaborating with the County on the design, and a change order for construction drawings has been approved. The segment of Old Augusta Road from Logistics Parkway to Hwy 21 is currently under construction. Intersections are being prioritized, with four lane routes to follow. The Greenland Developers' roundabout will also be expanded to a multi-lane configuration during this phase.

Commissioner Deloach inquired about future road projects. It was noted that significant projects include the Low Ground Road connector, the Old River Road realignment, the Jabez Jones extension, East West Road, the Effingham Parkway extension, and the Gateway Parkway.

County Engineer Hulme provided an update on the request for a traffic light at the park entrance, which is being considered and could address safety concerns. However, alternative solutions, such as a right-turn lane, may be implemented if approval from GDOT is delayed. Regarding roundabouts, there are at least 20 planned for the project, including locations along Blue Jay from Sandhill to Midland and Hodgeville, McCall and Blue Jay, and Gateway and Hodgeville. Additional intersectional improvements are also planned. The team has established typical road classifications and introduced low-volume road standards for dirt or chip seal roads, with ADT volumes to be associated with these classifications.

III – ADJOURNMENT

At 4:57 pm, there being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Damon Rahn, Chairman

Stephanie D. Johnson, County Clerk

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JULY 1, 2025