

Staff Report

Subject: Ratification of GDOT Traffic Signal Permit Application for a School Beacon SR 21 at Progress Drive / Effingham College and Career Academy

Author: Tim Callanan, County Manager

Department: County Manager

Meeting Date: February 17, 2026

Item Description: Consideration to ratify the submission and execution of a Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Traffic Signal Permit Application for the installation of a School Beacon on State Route 21 at Progress Drive, serving the Effingham College & Career Academy.

Summary Recommendation: Staff recommends ratification of the GDOT Traffic Signal Permit Application for a School Beacon at SR21 and Progress Drive.

Executive Summary/Background: In order to keep the project moving forward and to meet GDOT processing timelines, the County Manager executed and submitted a GDOT Request for Traffic Signal Permit for the installation of a School Beacon at SR21 and Progress Drive, adjacent to the Effingham College & Career Academy.

The purpose of the School Beacon is to improve vehicular safety during school arrival and dismissal periods by increasing driver awareness. SR21 is a state route with significant traffic volumes, and the Effingham College & Career Academy generates consistent school-related traffic activity.

This item is being brought before the Effingham County Board of Commissioners for formal ratification of the previously executed application. Approval authorizes the continued processing of the permit by GDOT and confirms the Board's concurrence with the commitments outlined in the application.

If GDOT approves the permit, Effingham County will be responsible for participation in the costs associated with the purchase, installation, operation, and maintenance of the School Beacon. All electrical power and communication costs will be borne by Effingham County, with no cost to GDOT. GDOT retains authority to inspect, approve, or revoke the authorization in accordance with state requirements.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Ratify the previously executed GDOT Traffic Signal Permit Application for a School Beacon at SR21 and Progress Drive.
2. Decline to ratify the previously executed application.
3. Provide staff with direction.

Recommended Alternative:

Staff recommends Alternative 1 – Ratify the previously executed GDOT Traffic Signal Permit Application for a School Beacon at SR21 and Progress Drive.

Other Alternatives: N/A

Department Review: County Engineer, County Manager

Funding Source: Installation = SPLOST; Maintenance = Public Works Department

Attachments: GDOT Request for Traffic Signal – School Beacon
SR21 at Progress Drive / Effingham College & Career Academy
(Signed January 14, 2026)