

Staff Report

Subject: Drainage Easement Agreement – Lamar W. Davis, Jr. Trust Property

Author: Danielle Carver, Procurement and Contracts Manager; **Presented By:** Jonathan Hulme, County Engineer

Department: Procurement / Engineering

Meeting Date: October 21, 2025

Item Description: Consideration to approve a Drainage Easement Agreement between Effingham County and Lamar W. Davis, Jr., as Trustee of the Residuary Bypass Trust, for property located on Springfield Tusculum Road.

Summary Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the Drainage Easement Agreement with the Davis Trust to support stormwater infrastructure improvements along Springfield Tusculum Road.

Executive Summary/Background:

Effingham County Public Works is undertaking drainage improvements in the vicinity of Springfield Tusculum Road. To support these efforts, a 50-foot-wide permanent drainage easement is required across property owned by the Residuary Bypass Trust, represented by Lamar W. Davis, Jr., Trustee.

The easement area totals **5.393 acres (234,927 sq. ft.)**, as shown on the plat prepared by EMC Engineering and dated June 20, 2025. The agreement grants the County the perpetual, non-exclusive right to enter the property for purposes of constructing, operating, maintaining, and repairing drainage infrastructure.

Key terms of the agreement include:

- Full access rights for County personnel and contractors
- Authorization to clear, grade, and restore land as necessary for drainage
- Restrictions on planting, construction, or obstructions within the easement
- No financial consideration beyond nominal exchange (\$10.00)

Approval of this easement is necessary to move forward with planned stormwater improvements in the area.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Approve the Drainage Easement Agreement with the Davis Trust.
2. Deny the agreement and delay drainage improvements.
3. Provide additional direction to staff.

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: 2, 3

Department Review: Procurement and Engineering

Funding Source: Capital Improvement FY26 Budget

Attachments: Drainage Easement Agreement, Plat