

CALHOUN COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR/CONTROLLER

“Building a Better County Through Responsive Leadership”

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- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

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Road Commission Task Force Meetings Will be Open to Public

Effective with our next meeting, the Calhoun County Road Commission Task Force will conduct its meetings in public.

We believe the case could still be made that the task force, which is advisory in nature, is not a public body and thus is not required to follow the Open Meetings Act. But we have listened to the many voices encouraging open deliberation and are willing to change our course accordingly.

The only reason the group originally chose to have flexibility to conduct some task force meetings without public involvement relates to the potential sensitive nature of issues that may be included during the initial fact finding and discovery phase, pertaining to Road Commission personnel and operations. We want people to feel they have the access to the Task Force to freely express their concerns and always intended to include the public at appropriate times when the task force deliberates.

There is not much disagreement that our roads are in need of improvement. No question that there are road funding issues, but throwing money at a problem does not necessarily fix the problem. This task force's objective is to review and better understand the Road Commission's business model and report objectively back to the County Board of Commissioners, so we as the Full Board can determine--openly and after public hearings--what should be done in the best interest of our residents. This is about transparent use of funds, trust, accountability, efficiency and quality control.

Art Kale - Calhoun County Board Chair, and Road Commission Task Force Chairman

- END -

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